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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Lebanese Deputies' Meeting in Al-Ta'if

Deputies Discuss National Entente

LD0210123289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese parliament concluded its fourth closed working session at 1400 today at the Palace of Conferences in the town of al-Ta'if under the chairmanship of Husayn al-Husayni, the speaker of the parliament, and with the participation of all the deputies who have come to al-Ta'if for this purpose.

During this session, which began this morning and which lasted 3 hours and 45 minutes, the participants resumed their discussions on the National Entente document prepared by the higher Arab tripartite committee. The participants also continued to listen to the deputies' viewpoints and suggestions with a view to achieving peace and national reconciliation in Lebanon.

The parliament will resume its fifth closed session later this evening.

Formation of Committee Denied

NC0210165689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to reports from al-Ta'if, today's session is considered to be the practical beginning of an in-depth discussion of the Arab tripartite committee document. Previous sessions were devoted to hearing views and proposals on the Lebanese situation and to comments on the document.

Shortly before the fourth session, deputies expressed astonishment at reports about the formation of a 10-member parliamentary committee tasked with drawing up an accord document, particularly because representatives of certain blocs were left off the committee.

Our correspondent in al-Ta'if told us that all reports about the formation of a parliamentary committee are false. [passage omitted]

2 Oct Session Adjourns

LD0210225689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The Lebanese House of Deputies concluded its fifth working session at 2300 [2000 GMT] at the Palace of Conferences in al-Ta'if. The session was chaired by Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the house, and was held with the participation of all the members of the house, who came to al-Ta'if for this purpose. In that session, which lasted for 4 hours, they completed the discussion and study of the national reconciliation document prepared by the supreme Arab tripartite committee. They also completed listening to the views and proposals of a number of deputies about the reconciliation document, which is aimed at achieving peace, stability, and national reconciliation in Lebanon.

It is decided that the house will resume its meeting at 0900 Tuesday [0600 GMT].

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives

LD0210232589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali arrived in al-Ta'if this evening. He was received at al-Ta'if airport by the director general of the Foreign Ministry branch of the western zone, as well as by the head of protocol of the Foreign Ministry and a number of officials.

3 Oct Session Detailed

NC0310200889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Michel al-Kik dispatch from al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia—live]

[Excerpts] The sixth session of the Lebanese deputies meeting was held behind closed doors at the Palace of Conferences in al-Ta'if from 1100 to 1500 today. The deputies continued their debate on the Arab tripartite committee document on national accord, focusing on the powers of the various branches of government. They discussed the Chamber of Deputies' powers for 4 hours. The document's first point proposes that the chamber be expanded to 128 seats to be divided equally between Christians and Muslims and that some deputies be appointed until parliamentary elections are held. This proposal generated many legal interpretations because a number of deputies refused to accept an increase in seats and the principle of appointment. Some of them called for reducing the Chamber of Deputies to 108 seats.

The fifth session focused primarily on the powers of the president. Several schools of thought could be discerned from the deputies' proposals. One school calls for transferring some powers to the Council of Ministers and another for an even greater reduction of these powers. Deputies Rashid al-Sulh, Zahir al-Khatib, Najah Wakim, and Jamil Kibbih supported this view. Jamil Kibbih presented a 30-page document calling for restricting the president's prerogatives and maintaining power in the cabinet. In other words, the president would no longer be the commander in chief of the Army. This was subjected to a lengthy and extensive debate.

Another school believes in maintaining the president's powers while strengthening those of the prime minister and cabinet as proposed by Deputy Michel Sasin. Dr George Sa'adah opposed making the post of president an honorary position but also insisted on a review of the president's powers. Deputy Joseph Skaf proposed that the president resign if 75 deputies sign a petition demanding his resignation. Still another school calls for

a balance of power between the president and the prime minister. This stand was adopted by most of the other deputies. [passage omitted]

Tawfiq 'Assaf, the only Druze deputy, called for the creation of a senate. He requested clarification of some points from the Progressive Socialist Party. We have learned that the Shiite deputies oppose the idea of a senate. We have also learned that differences have emerged between the Shiite and Sunnite deputies on the issue of powers. [passage omitted]

The seventh session scheduled for 1900 today was postponed until tomorrow morning because 24 Muslim deputies went to Holy Mecca tonight to perform the minor hajj. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Promises Troop Withdrawal

NC0410124089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] On the 5th day of the Lebanese parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if, two extremely vital issues are on the agenda and both promise to be hard to tackle. These are the abolition of political sectarianism and the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. The debate, which resumed at 1100, is expected to last for at least 2 more days. Observers in al-Ta'if do not rule out the possibility that one of the Arab tripartite committee officials will visit Damascus in the near future.

The deputies have agreed on the powers of the three major state institutions and on the equal division of Chamber of Deputies seats between Christians and Muslims.

This morning 25 East Beirut deputies met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The same deputies met last night in the suite of Deputy Nasri al-Ma'luf.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali met last night with Deputies George Sa'adah, Pierre Dakkash, and Michel Sasin. In that meeting, the deputies reiterated their request for confirmed, unambiguous, and reliable guarantees concerning the schedule for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

The Saudi foreign minister was cited as telling the East Beirut deputies that the Arab tripartite document will lead to the withdrawal of the Syrians in accordance with a schedule that may not please either side of the conflict in Lebanon, but will certainly prevent a renewal of the fighting and thus open the door to peace.

Reporting from al-Ta'if, AFP says that the East Beirut deputies are asking for a written and prompt schedule for the full withdrawal of Syrian troops. AFP cites diplomatic and parliamentary sources as saying that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has informed the East Beirut deputies of an oral pledge given by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the tripartite committee to the effect that he will pull out his troops from Beirut [as heard] during the 6 months following the election of a president.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on 'Arafat Official Visit to Japan

Threatens To End Dialogue

NC0310061289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the PLO is not happy with its dialogue with the United States and might end it. In an interview with a Japanese newspaper to be published today, 'Arafat said that a decision on continuing the dialogue with the United States will be made during the PLO leadership's meeting in Baghdad in mid-October.

Meets Toshiki Kaifu

JN0310181589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has welcomed U.S. support for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's peace proposals. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials cited brother President Abu-'Ammar as saying during a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu today that Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush agreed to cooperate in this regard, and that the PLO greatly appreciates this.

The Japanese officials were also cited as saying that Brother President Abu-'Ammar urged Japan to shoulder a greater responsibility in the Middle East and to extend more aid to the Palestinian citizens. The officials also said that Kaifu informed President 'Arafat that Japan will increase its aid to Palestinian citizens through international organizations.

Leaves for China

OW0410050189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, (PLO) left Tokyo for China on Wednesday afternoon at the end of a 4-day official visit. It was the first official visit to Japan by the PLO leader, who last visited Tokyo in 1981.

'Arafat declared his support for direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue "without preconditions" in his meetings Tuesday with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Terms Tour 'Successful'

OW0410080589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 (KYODO)—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat concluded his four-day visit to Japan Wednesday by declaring that his talks with Japanese leaders on the Middle East peace process were "very successful and fruitful."

"We agreed to participate and coordinate to push forward the peace processes in our areas, by all means and on all levels—this is the most important achievement," 'Arafat told reporters at the Japan National Press Club before departing for China.

'Arafat met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, as well as with the leaders of the five largest opposition parties. With the Japanese Government's blessing, he also presided over a ceremony upgrading the Palestinian representative office in Tokyo to that of a "permanent general mission of Palestine."

'Arafat, who last came to Japan in 1981 at the invitation of Japanese parliamentarians, noted that this time he was invited as an official guest of the Japanese Government, which set a new precedent. He said he asked Kaifu on Tuesday to have Japan engage itself politically in the Middle East peace process and to help with Palestine's development both before and after the achievement of peace.

'Arafat said he was able to reconfirm Japan's "very strong" support for the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including their right to create a Palestinian state, as well as the realistic need for the participation of the PLO in the peace process. He expressed further appreciation for Japan's call for a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all territories occupied since 1967.

'Arafat was magnanimous despite his inability to attain Japanese commitments for increased aid, recognition of the PLO's self-proclaimed state of Palestine, a cut in trade with Israel, or the launching of a new forum for high-level dialogue.

"We are not coming here to squeeze our friends," he told reporters.

"We (came) to coordinate (with them), according to their situation and to the international atmosphere around them," he said. "We have to put ourselves in their position."

'Arafat was pressed at the conference on his seemingly veiled threat to Japan at a symposium Monday, in which he said oil-hungry Japan's trade with Israel jeopardizes its interests in the Middle East, where he said it must address the sentiments of 600,000 Palestinians and 200 million Arabs.

"I am not coming here to interfere in their internal or external affairs," the PLO leader replied. He said he was merely asking Japan to balance its dealings with the Palestinians and Arabs in tune with those with Israel.

'Arafat called on Japan to strike business deals with Palestinians, not necessarily those in the occupied territories, through merchants associations, chambers of commerce and municipalities.

The PLO leader blasted Japan's policy of "free taxes for the Israeli jewels," an apparant reference to the growing volume of Israeli diamond exports to Japan.

Japan was the second largest buyer of Israeli diamonds in 1988 after the United States, accounting for 20 percent of the total exports. Officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said, however, that all diamonds are free from duty regardless of the country of origin.

Holds News Conference

OW0410094089 Tokyo KYODO in English 0903 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 (KYODO)—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Wednesday that the two-year-old popular uprising among Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories will continue, regardless of Israel's response to a recent Egyptian peace initiative.

"Would you expect that our people would stop their resistence against Israeli occupation?" 'Arafat asked reporters during a press conference on the final day of his four-day visit to Tokyo.

"We decided not to live as slaves under occupation," the uniformed PLO leader said in explaining the motivation behind the 21-month Palestinian revolt on the West Bank and Gaza.

'Arafat's remarks at the Japan National Press Club followed his declaration of support the previous day for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposal for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue "without preconditions."

Israel's "inner cabinet" is set to meet Wednesday in Jerusalem, to discuss the Egyptian president's proposal, as well as his list of 10 queries on a previous Israeli peace plan announced by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last August.

"We support the efforts that have been declared by President Bush and President Mubarak to push forward the peace processes of the area," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat said that the proposed meeting would be held "under international auspices."

He said the talks would hasten preparation for an international conference on the Palestinian question "under the five members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO."

Hostage Issue Reportedly Raised

OW0410134389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1319 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday that

"all hostages in Lebanon should be released," a high-level Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, speaking to KYODO NEWS SERVICE on condition of anonymity, declined to comment on whether the United States had taken the occasion of 'Arafat's visit here to request Japan to call on the PLO leader to exert his influence toward the release of the hostages. The official said the hostage question was "too delicate."

Nakayama made the remarks to 'Arafat in the context of welcoming the PLO's renunciation of terrorism and expressing concern over the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, the official said. The Japanese foreign minister said Japan is opposed to terrorism in all its forms. It was not clarified whether 'Arafat commented on the hostage issue.

'Arafat left for China on Wednesday, winding up a four-day official visit to Japan.

'Arafat Urges End to Gaza Bar Dispute

JN0210192489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1753 GMT 2 Oct 89

["Text" of announcer-read message by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Gaza residents on differences in the Gaza Bar Association—date, place not given]

[Text] To my struggling and steadfast kinfolk, brothers and beloved citizens in the brave city of Gaza, to my honorable brothers and families in struggling and steadfast Gaza, and to my honorable brothers in the bar association in heroic Gaza, I address you at these glorious moments, in which your heroic struggle is reaching its climax and in which your hearts and hands are united to confront the Zionist occupation that practices the most violent cycle of terrorism, repression, and mad grudges against you in Gaza, in the brave and proud Gaza Strip, and throughout our blazing land in order to weaken your heroic steadfastness and to extinguisdh the torch of your heroic and blessed intifadah. Their intention is to extinguish God's light with their mouths: But God will complete His light, even though the unbelievers may detest [Koranic verse].

This hateful enemy that is weighing heavily on us is using every way to infiltrate our ranks. But, God be praised, he is not able to find a way. He is looking for any problem or difference, no matter how small or limited, to increase the volume of the secondary contradictions, which may occur within our ranks or institutions. He is also looking for our temporary or tribal differences to turn them into deep wounds. This is the law of the Zionist enemy at any time. The enemy's measures, armies, and terrorism fail to affect our heroic generations, our deep-rooted unity, and the escalation of our blessed heroic intifadah. As a result, he looks for loopholes to spread intrigues, sedition, and differences to aim the arrows of hatred and grudge at every one.

My hopes are great and I am fully confident that our honorable strugglers in the bar association in the city of Gaza are able to patch up their differences, which have occured as a result of a temporary incident, and to bury the traces of that incident, no matter how painful they may be. Lawyers in the city of Gaza, who made many achievements for their people and revolution under the darkest circumstances, should patch up their differences, re-epitomize their brilliant image, and raise their national love, national awareness, and national affiliation above all wounds.

I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the PLO, urge my brothers in Abu-Sha'ban and Abu-al-Nasr families and all my kinfolk in the noble families of Gaza, to measure up to the level of the national responsibility—something they are capable of doing.

No, we will not have the occupation make a spectacle of us. We will not allow the Zionist enemy to pour its fire on our small wounds. We will not give the enemy, which only wishes evil on us, our people, and our homeland, the opportunity to infiltrate through our passing disputes to fragment our strong national unity.

On my own behalf, and on the behalf of the PLO, I urge brother Lawyer Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban, brother Lawyer 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-al-Nasr, and each member of the two noble families and all my noble kinfolk in the valiant city of Gaza—the city of steadfastness, heroism, sacrifice, solidarity, and compassion—to rise above and transcend all wounds and disputes and to shut their doors in the face of the inflexible, the reckless, and those who propagate evil in line with what God has said: Muhammad is the apostle of God, and those who are with him are strong against unbelievers, but compassionate among each other. [portion of Koranic verse]

At a time when the hateful Zionist occupation confronts us with the ugliest means of oppression, terrorism, and hatred it has, no one must be allowed to kindle a dispute no matter what it may be, or to trade with the problem no matter how big it gets.

This is the homeland's appeal to you. This is your people's appeal to you. And, this is also my appeal and the appeal of the PLO to you.

Brothers in Abu-Sha'ban and Abu-al-Nasr families, I am confident that you, and all noble people of the noble Gaza families, will respond to the voice of logic and to the appeal of national love and the national supreme interest so that fists, all fists, will remain united against our enemy until victory is achieved.

Revolution until victory.

[Signed] Your brother, Abu-'Ammar.

Khalaf Cites Points Excluded From Mubarak Plan

JN0310172489 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
2 Oct 89 p 14

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Excerpts] Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has affirmed that the Palestinian people will not accept anything less than the right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. He warned that the attempts to push the Palestinians to desperation and frustration will only lead to violence, or what they describe as terrorism.

In a speech he delivered yesterday to mark the 4th anniversary of the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis, he said that the Palestinian people have offered the international community everything it has so far asked of them, but the latter has not responded to a single Palestinian demand and still clings to its aggressive stand toward the Palestinian people and bias toward Israel. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian official referred to the 10 points presented by President Mubarak. He said they do not contain important issues such as the independent Palestinian state and the right to self-determination and repatriation. He did not describe it as an initiative and said it was merely a series of questions posed to Israel, three-quarters of which deal with the elections and the last quarter deals with the date assigned by Israel to discuss the final settlement. He revealed that the 10 points were presented to four sides and that each side differs from the other. He referred to Israeli war Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark that the important thing is to read what is not present in those points; that is, the non-mention of the PLO, the right to self-detemination and repatriation, and establishing the independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leader revealed that the Swedish foreign minister presented the PLO with a proposal from the United States, including its agreement to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue with a delegation comprising Palestinians from inside and outside [the occupied territories]. Egypt and the Soviet Union also conveyed similar information. However, the last meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his U.S. counterpart James Baker witnessed a U.S. retreat. [passage omitted]

PLO Delegation To Visit Syria This Month

JN0310172989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
2 Oct 89 p 22

[By Muhammad Dulbuh from New York]

[Text] Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau, has affirmed that a Syrian-Palestinian agreement has been reached in which a high-ranking PLO delegation will visit Damascus before the end of October. The agreement was reached during the meeting in New York between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi. In a statement to AL-WATAN, Qubba'ah said that the PLO Central Council will meet in Baghdad in mid-October to discuss three basic topics consisting of organizational issues, democratic reforms within the PLO, and the intifadah, including ways to develop and escalate it. The Central Council will also discuss the political issues related to the ongoing political moves and the PLO's activities and role on the Arab and international levels.

Taysir Qubba'ah, who is a member of the Palestinian delegation attending the UN General Assembly session in New York, said: "There is a need for convening the Palestine National Council's [PNC] 20th session. The PNC must be formed on new and fair basis, reflecting the balance of power in the Palestinian arena as well as the reality of the effective forces among the Palestinian people."

Qubba'ah called for embarking on an uprising within the PLO on the level of the popular intifadah inside the occupied territory to meet the ambitions of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory. He also called for effective Palestinian leadership, councils, and institutions.

Qubba'ah described the intifadah inside the occupied territory as a way of life. He said that no force can succeed in diverting the intifadah from its objectives or in moving it away from its present framework. He said: "Nothing threatens the intifadah from inside, but the fear comes from the external plotting." He affirmed that the central link in the Palestinian struggle must concentrate now on aborting the Shamir proposals and the Egyptian 10 points, which the PFLP considers as a completion of the Shamir proposals.

Qubba'ah denied reports that 'Arafat has agreed on the Egyptian 10 points or that he authorized President Mubarak to speak on his behalf. He said: "Nobody in the PLO has agreed on the 10 points, which are a mechanism [preceding word in English] to implement the Shamir proposals."

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From European, U.S. Tour

NC0310154489 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1530 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned safely from Rome at 1700 today, ending his tour of France, the United States, and Italy.

'Abd-al-Majid Reviews Mubarak's Tour, Talks

NC0310181089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized the importance of President Mubarak's talks with senior officials in the United States, France, and Italy during his recent tour.

In a statement upon his return this evening, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid praised President Mubarak's important political speech to the UN General Assembly last Friday, in which the president reviewed various Arab, regional, and international issues. He noted that the speech was very well received by the delegations.

Regarding President Mubarak's talks with senior officials, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that they had focused on the peace initiative and relevant issues. He noted the widespread interest in the 10 points and cited the president's reiteration that these points are further clarification of the election plan and not an alternative to it. According to Dr 'Abd-al-Majid, this reiteration was necessary because some believe that the 10 points represent an independent plan.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted the widespread diplomatic interest in the peace process in general and Egypt's pioneering role in particular.

He also noted the coordination between Egypt and the Palestinians and added that such coordination will continue with all parties concerned.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said: We visited Italy and met with Italian Prime Minister Guilio Andreotti. He noted that the meeting reflected the solid and cordial relations between the two countries in various fields.

He noted that President Mubarak's tour was very full and expressed his belief that there is great interest in Egypt's efforts.

As for the Israeli stand, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid referred to the contacts held with Israeli officials during the tour, as well as those held with the Americans, who demonstrated their positive position.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his belief that the U.S. responsiveness will help the Egyptian stand and that contacts will continue with both the Israelis and the Americans. He said: We appreciate the stand taken by the Americans following President Mubarak's visit last April. He added that President George Bush will maintain his stand on the Palestinian issue. He said: We in Egypt follow the U.S. stand closely because the United States is a partner in the peace process. Moreover, he added, the Americans have shown their good intentions.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid concluded that the meetings in New York and Washington, particularly the one between Presidents Mubarak and Bush, were very full and important.

Editor on Importance of Mubarak-Bush Meeting

JN0310153889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
2 Oct 89 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sa'id Sunbul: "Today's Meeting and Its Importance"]

[Text] Today's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush is of particular importance; it is more important than any of the previous meetings between the two leaders.

The first meeting between the two presidents took place in Tokyo toward the end of February, the second in Washington at the beginning of April, and the third in Paris in July during the celebrations marking the anniversary of the French revolution.

But today's meeting is different from all previous three: It is much more important, taking place under different circumstances and at an extremely critical and sensitive time.

—This time, President Mubarak visits the United States as president of Egypt and chairman of the OAU. He, therefore, speaks on behalf of both Egypt and the African Continent, presenting their issues and ambitions.
—President Mubarak is visiting the United States after Egypt has restored its Arab League membership and returned to its natural position in the lead of the Arab world.
—The meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Bush comes after the annual IMF meeting has taken place. The meeting was held in Washington and was synchronous with Egypt's negotiations with the IMF. The negotiations are continuing without reaching an agreement.
—In addition to all this, the meeting takes place after Egypt has succeeded in breaking the deadlock in the peace process, whereby the Palestine question had virtually been pushed into locked drawers.

Since Yitzhaq Shamir announced his initiative in April, an initiative which calls for holding elections in the occupied territories to elect Palestinian representatives, things have reached a deadlock.

President Husni Mubarak then proposed 10 points and called on Israel to clarify its position on these points and to hold unconditional dialogue with the Palestinians. President Mubarak's call enjoyed worldwide welcome and support.

But President Mubarak was not content merely to raise the 10 points; he began to hold extensive talks with both the Palestinians and the Israelis. He met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat more than once, and met with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo and with Israeli Labor Leader Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in New York. He also held a telephone conversation with Yitzhaq Shamir.

It is clear that this peaceful "onslaught" has come as surprise to Israel; it can say neither yes nor no to peace.

Presidents Mubarak and Bush are meeting amid these circumstances and developments and it is natural that their talks should deal with the various issues, especially the issue of peace.

What is clear—so far—is that the U.S. Administration feels satisfied merely to wait for what the Israeli cabinet will decide when it meets this weekend.

But the question is: Will the United States remain content with the role of spectator? Or will it move and play a more effective role?

Today's meeting between the two presidents will perhaps answer this question.

Usamah Al-Baz Views Peace Plan, Other Issues

PM2609221589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 89 p4

[Telephone interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of Egyptian President Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, by Huda al-Husayni; date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has stated that Egypt would nominate a Palestinian delegation but only after consultation with Israel. On what basis would Egypt select such a delegation, and what if Israel rejected it but the PLO insisted?

[Al-Baz] Egypt does not take an exclusive view on this matter. It contacts the people concerned with this issue, namely the Palestinian people. We are trying to initiate the first step and, in our view, the first step is a direct dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis, without any prior conditions, to explore the possibilities of negotiations. The step we are talking about is a step toward a preparatory dialogue, a dialogue that is not seen as negotiation but as some kind of preparatory talks.

[Al-Husayni] A Palestinian source maintains that Egypt's aim is to promote a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo to start the dialogue, but so far you have achieved nothing.

[Al-Baz] We are now at the stage preceding agreement. Neither of the two sides has taken a stand that could be construed as an undertaking or a commitment. What is happening now is that we are holding contacts with the Palestinian and Israeli sides with the aim of reaching agreement on enough points for the first phase only, which is a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue without prior conditions to identify the possibilities on both sides and to probe the chances of making progress toward comprehensive negotiations.

[Al-Husayni] In other words, agreement aimed only at starting an unconditional dialogue.

[Al-Baz] Yes, unconditional. We insist that the dialogue should be unconditional without either side interfering with the decisions of the other whether in relation to the formation of the Palestinian delegation or to the basis on which the dialogue is to proceed. What matters is that a dialogue should be held without prior conditions.

[Al-Husayni] In your 10 points, there was no mention of partial Israeli withdrawal and....

[Al-Baz] The 10 points referred to a section pertaining to necessary withdrawal for holding elections only, if there was agreement to hold elections. The 10 points will not govern the dialogue. We submitted these 10 points as questions or requests for clarifications from the Israeli side to find out its position on certain matters, that is all.

[Al-Husayni] But in these points, or questions, you did not ask the Israeli side what it thought of the independent Palestinian state.

[Al-Baz] We cannot ask its opinion of the independent state because we already know that the Israeli official view at present is one of opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. We hope that the dialogue would be the first step on what we believe to be a long road. After the dialogue there are bound to be negotiations during which there will be discussions on the independent state. Although the points we raised are exploratory, our aim was to discuss Israel's view of the principles declared by the United States on a recent occasion with the suggestion that these principles form the basis of a settlement, including the Palestinian people's political rights. Political rights mean the right of self-determination which in turn means the right to independence and establishment of a Palestinian state according to what the Palestinians decide in consultation with fraternal Jordan. It would be a state within the limits they choose. We believe that Israel has no right to oppose the establishment of such a state because Israel must withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and the owners of that territory will have the right to determine its fate.

[Al-Husayni] Is that only the Egyptian intepretation or is it also the American interpretation?

[Al-Baz] The United State agrees with us that the Palestinians have a right to Israeli withdrawal. The Americans have said: Israel must accept the principle of withdrawal. Israel knows that the United States is opposed to the idea of annexation. Although the United States does not agree to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, it cannot object to a Palestinian state in a confederation

with Jordan. The U.S. opposition to the principle of self-determination stems from its assertion that self-determination at present means establishment of an independent Palestinian state, but apart from that, they cannot deny the Palestinian people that natural right.

[Al-Husayni] Does Egypt go along with the U.S. interpretation regarding establishment of a state linked to Jordan?

[Al-Baz] No, Egypt believes that the Palestinian people are entitled to exercise their right to self-determination without restriction. We believe that the step approved by the Palestine National Council in more than one session and the Palestinian-Jordanian February 1985 agreement calling for a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state help considerably but that they cannot be imposed on the Palestinian people. This is a step that the Palestinian and Jordanian people would take by free choice on both sides. Thank God, we are fully satisfied with the full accord and cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian people, and particularly the PLO.

[Al-Husayni] What you are saying means that the Israeli coalition government must be brought down to give way for an alternative government.

[Al-Baz] No, we do not interfere in Israeli internal affairs and we do not say the government must be brought down. What we are saying and will continue to say is that the Israeli rejection policies should be changed as indeed the Palestinian rejection policies have been changed. There was a move at the Palestinian level and there should be a reciprocal move at the Israeli level. The Israeli rejection policies which say no to withdrawal, no to the PLO, no to the right of self-determination, and no to an independent Palestinian state even within a confederation with Jordan do not bring any progress and mean continued and escalating conflict and violence. We want to change Israeli policies, not Israeli governments, because there is no guarantee that if the government changed the policies would change. That is the business of the Israelis anyway. What we request is a change of Israeli policy. It is now clear that an essential section of the Israeli ruling establishment is convinced that there can be no progress unless Palestinian demands are accepted to a certain extent and unless there is agreement to the initiation of a real and serious dialogue between an Israeli delegation and a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinian inside and outside [the occupied territory] because nobody should dictate to the Palestinians that their delegation must only come from inside. Just as we do not interfere in the selection of the Israeli delegation there should be no interference in the selection of the Palestinian delegation. It is enough to have Palestinians come willing to talk peace provided there are no security charges against any of them.

[Al-Husayni] Did Yitzhaq Rabin agree to what Egypt suggested when he was in Cairo?

[Al-Baz] We cannot say that he took a final stand on these matters but he promised to follow them up with a view to achieving agreement between the two sides and bridging the gap between them.

[Al-Husayni] After receiving 'Arafat and then Rabin, President Mubarak announced that 'Arafat was prepared to visit Israel for peace talks. Had 'Arafat asked that of President Mubarak secretly?

[Al-Baz] In that announcement President Mubarak expressed the Palestinian leadership's willingness to hold a dialogue with the Israeli officials at all levels. There was no specific mention of President 'Arafat going to Israel. The intended meaning which the president explained was that the Palestinian leadership had no objection to or sensitivities about holding contacts and a dialogue with the Israelis. Like us, it believes that direct contacts without any preconditions is the only way to achieve agreement between the two, at all stages, from the initial stage to the final stage.

[Al-Husayni] When ['Arafat adviser] Bassam Abu-Sharif said that he was prepared to go to Israel the latter said that it would arrest him if he did. What was its reaction to the idea of 'Arafat going there?

[Al-Baz] There is no talk of Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] going there at this stage. It is also not a question of arresting or threatening anyone. In fact we do not accept that threatening tone from any side. We say that the Israelis will gradually find it necessary to be open to the idea of holding a dialogue with the Palestinian people and their representatives without any preconditions.

[Al-Husayni] Is the United States satisfied with this role that Egypt is playing between the PLO and Israel?

[Al-Baz] First of all we do not play a role because a certain state is satisfied or dissatisfied with it. We play that part because we feel that it is in the interest of the Palestinian cause, the states of the region, and in the interest of peace and stability in this region we live in which is deep in trouble, violence, and tension. We, however, are pleased that such major states as the United States, the Soviet Union, the European states, the African states, and many Arab states encourage and support this move as being a first step on the road.

[Al-Husayni] A long road.

[Al-Baz] Yes, we know it is a long road and many journeys will be required and we know that it is bestrewn with thorns not roses.

[Al-Husayni] Which problem will get top priority in your meetings with U.S. President George Bush and members of the U.S. Administration?

[Al-Baz] The Middle East situation and in particular the Palestinian question, then the situation in Lebanon and the need to end the war between Iraq and Iran and to turn the current cease-fire into a complete termination of the war. African issues such as the situation in South Africa and African debts will also figure prominently.

The president will carry all these matters and concerns to the United States and they will figure in his UN General Assembly speech and in his talks with President Bush on 2 October.

[Al-Husayni] Why, in your view, does the United States take that negative stance on the Lebanese question?

[Al-Baz] The U.S. position, as conveyed to us by the American side, is that the United States very much wants to see an end to the bloody tragedy in Lebanon and it would play a part if it thought that would bear fruit. The Americans believe that the only essential role that could be fruitful is that played by the tripartite committee. There is a feeling of satisfaction in U.S., European, and many other international circles at the progress made so far, and eagerness to increase the chances of success for the tripartite committee.

[Al-Husayni] Did Egypt support the tripartite committee's second statement?

[Al-Baz] We support the tripartite committee's efforts and we have supported the second statement. We know that some brothers in Lebanon have some reservations about the tripartite committee's statement but we believe that in essence the statement was positive and it should provide a good opportunity. It is a step on which other steps could be built in the near future.

[Al-Husayni] We have noticed some improvement in Egyptian-Syrian relations. What is the current state of these relations?

[Al-Baz] Relations between Egypt and Syria are good. As you may have noticed, the Syrian officials are always talking about fateful links between Egypt and Syria. We have the same sentiments but there is nothing more than that at present.

[Al-Husayni] Will Egypt play a part between Jordan and Israel particulary after the tension resulting from the Katyusha attack?

[Al-Baz] No, we see no need for a role between Jordan and Israel because Israel knows very well the degree of importance that Egypt attaches to stability on the borders because the Jordan-Israel line across the river is an Arab, not an Israeli, border. These are borders of the Palestinian state, of the West Bank. They are the cease-fire lines. We believe that it is the duty of all parties, and especially Israel, to maintain calm, tranquility, and stability on their side of the armistice or cease-fire line. Jordan's safety and its protection from any aggression by any party is very important to us.

[Al-Husayni] Why has Egypt begun erecting a fence all along its borders with Israel?

[Al-Baz] No, we are not building a fence or anything else. We are just taking ordinary measures to clearly mark the border line. That is a routine thing we have been doing for a long time. There is no infiltration. We believe that the coming years must produce a settlement to the Palestinian question, after which the remaining pending issues would be resolved. The Lebanese question would be settled and the borders between Lebanon and Israel would be secured. There in particular, all Israeli presence on Lebanese territory should be terminated and the idea of a security belt and Israeli presence in one form or another should be abandoned. With the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's right to their state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, all these matters would be resolved and there would be no cause for tension on the borders.

[Al-Husayni] Did you discuss with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the Jericho-2 missile which was launched on 14 September?

[Al-Baz] No, we do not discuss these matters with them. We only discuss matters related to the issue of peace.

[Al-Husayni] Is it true that Yasir 'Arafat is currently playing a part in trying to arrange a meeting between the Egyptian and Libyan presidents?

[Al-Baz] President 'Arafat's main preoccupation is the Palestinian question. That is his duty. His connection with other issues is the same as the other Arab leaders. If he could say a good word that would be of service to the fraternal Arab states, he would not hesitate to do so but he does not participate directly in making arrangements for a meeting or a summit.

[Al-Husayni] In other words he has not been asked by you to do so?

[Al-Baz] No, he has neither been asked by us nor by the Libyan leadership but, like many other Arab leaders, he always puts in a good word in his contacts with the various parties.

[Al-Husayni] The Arab states have protested against Hungary's restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel. What about Egypt's position?

[Al-Baz] We believe that the main point in this matter is the role that certain states are playing in support of the Arab and Palestinian position in the peace process. The question of restoration of relations may now be just a formality. At one stage in the past it was a high priority issue but that is no longer the case. The main factor now is the extent of support we get from certain states. There are states which have not restored relations with Israel but their support is insufficient and there are states which have restored relations but still extend enough aid and support for the Palestinian people in pursuit of their rights. That, in our view, is what we must concentrate on.

[Al-Husayni] Will it be in the context of Palestinian rights that Egyptian Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, U.S. Secretary James Baker, and Israeli Minister Moshe Arens will meet? And what about the other meeting between President Mubarak and Shim'on Peres?

[Al-Baz] The meeting will not only be about Palestinian rights. It will also cover the question of removing the

remaining obstacles preventing the start of dialogue. We believe that starting the dialogue is a major and necessary step even if difficulties crop up later on, and we know they will. What matters is that the dialogue must begin. The mere initiation of the dialogue will in itself be a big event and the dialogue will have far-reaching repercussions and will to a large extent influence the views of many Israelis and affect the chances of coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis and of negotiations and dialogue. The wheel would begin to turn and we believe lead to many positive results.

[Al-Husayni] A final question: Will Cairo be the venue of a Palestinian-Israeli meeting?

[Al-Baz] We are willing and we see that both sides welcome that. Should at any time the two sides take the view that it would be better for them to meet somewhere else other than Cairo, we would give them whatever assistance we think they may need.

Air Force Commander on Weapons Systems

JN0310113489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 89 p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Ala'-al-Din Barakat, commander of the Egyptian Air Force, by Jamal Kamal; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Kamal] Let us be more specific about what concerns the Middle East, which has now entered the age of Israeli satellites and surface-to-surface missiles. How will Israel's possession of military satellites affect our Air Force's task?

[Barakat] Let us be frank. What is the aim of the Israeli satellites? Is it reconnaissance? Is it early warning? And what is its cost and potential lifetime? Are there no cheaper means of reconnaissance and intelligence than satellites? There are drones and early warning aircraft that can do the same tasks at a lower cost. And we actually possess what can do all this without incurring all the expense.

In fact, the Israeli satellite, which is only 4 months old, does not pose a military threat to us; it poses a challenge in indicating an advance in Israeli military technology. It is not logical to become involved in a race with Israel in this area to obtain a military satellite. We possess such early warning, intelligence, and reconnaissance equipment as necessary to perform our tasks. This equipment is no less effective than satellites. The Israeli satellite alerts the Arab countries about the level of Israeli technology. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] Has Egypt signed the third F-16 contract?

[Barakat] Egypt signed the third F-16 contract 2 years ago. These aircraft will begin to arrive at the beginning of next year. A fourth F-16 contract will be signed next year and the aircraft will be delivered to Egypt 24 months after that.

[Kamal] Some say we do not obtain modern F-16s.

[Barakat] The contract on the F-16s provides for obtaining all that has been developed for these aircraft. For instance, we have recently obtained night vision and navigation equipment for the F-16s. We will sign a contract to obtain the most modern air-to-surface missiles, which have recently gone into service with NATO. They are known as air-supremacy missiles. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] Has our request to obtain advanced helicopters been approved?

[Barakat] Yes. We have obtained the U.S. Administration's approval to acquire the modern Apache helicopter. Generally speaking, these aircraft are considered very modern and carry the third generation of anti-tank missiles that operate according to the strike-and-forget theory, that is, without being guided.

[Kamal] Some U.S. sources said Egypt asked for seven Phantom aircraft to form a full wing [liwa'].

[Barakat] We have enough of these aircraft for the tasks entrusted to them. We have sought, however, U.S. assistance to develop—according to Egyptian requirements—the radar, navigation equipment, cockpit, and type of missiles of these aircraft.

[Kamal] When will we acquire the midair refuelling aircraft? And will their acquisition make it necessary for us to modify the warplanes we already have?

[Barakat] The deal involving the purchase of the midair refuelling aircraft was signed in 1984. We purchased the Boeings. We are currently discussing ways to secure the funds and the specifications required. Decisions on these issues will be made in the next few months. The first midair refuelling airplane might arrive in early 1991.

[Kamal] What about the second deal involving the purchase of Mirage 2000 aircraft and the Mirage maintenance center that has been approved by France?

[Barakat] The first Mirage 2000 contract provided for our acquisition of 20 aircraft and also for the establishment of a maintenance and overhaul center. This has actually happened. An additional contract was signed, providing for the acquisition of a further 20 aircraft. However, we are still discussing ways to finance the contract.

[Kamal] Have the U.S. drones contained in a contract signed with the United States arrived?

[Barakat] The drones have arrived. Initial test flights are currently under way to prepare them for operational service. By the way, the equipment for manufacturing these drones in Egypt has arrived.

[Kamal] Some U.S. sources have said that Egypt requested authorization to manufacture the guided missiles 7 Aim, 9 Aim [preceding missile names as published in English].

[Barakat] Production is an extremely difficult process. What we requested was that we be allowed to build workshops for developing and maintaining these missiles in Egypt, which the United States approved. These workshops are about to be finished. Thus, we will be able to develop the various types of air-to-air, air-to-surface, and surface-to-surface missiles which we acquire.

[Kamal] There is a noticeable decrease in the number of aircraft from Eastern countries in the Egyptian Air Force. Does this contravene the policy of diversifying armament sources?

[Barakat] The policy of diversifying armament sources does not mean that you have a combination of various types of Eastern and Western planes. No: the policy means that you have the ability to acquire any type of aircraft from any country. I believe that we have so far succeeded in this.

[Kamal] Does this mean that the only operational aircraft of Eastern origin that we have are the MiG-21 and MiG-19? Where are the gigantic VTU-16 fighter bombers [name as published]?

[Barakat] After the estrangement with the USSR and with the ensuing problems of spare parts and maintenance, most Eastern aircraft went out of operational service of the Air Force, particularly as those aircraft date back to the sixties. In addition, they did not fit in with contemporary developments in aviation.

[Kamal] Let us talk frankly. Is there any political significance or dimension to the military maneuvers? Are there any benefits to be derived from the military maneuvers held jointly with the United States despite all that has been reported about them?

[Barakat] First, I am a soldier, not a politician. Hence, let me speak about the military benefits. Joint exercises give us expertise and tactical knowledge which we could never attain even if we spent the entire defense budget. From the outset, we have been talking about the need to provide our troops with the feel of battle. How are we to provide this feel of battle without the large number of combat aircraft used in these maneuvers? In addition, joint exercises provide Egyptian pilots with the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the aicraft they will be receiving. For example, we had the chance to form an opinion about the F-16 before we received it. We also learned about the Hawkeye airplane and Apache helicopter before we received them.

[Kamal] I believe that maneuvers do not provide our forces with the advantageous training we need.

[Barakat] We are not asked to reveal our plans to any country with which we conduct military exercises. We participate in the exercises to achieve a specific set of objectives. I believe that we have managed to achieve these objectives.

[Kamal] But why do we not conduct the same number of joint exercises of this size with Arab states?

[Barakat] We are ready to conduct any exercises with any Arab country. We have never refused any request by any Arab state to conduct military exercises with it. We conduct joint, annual maneuvers with the Jordanian Air Force. We also conduct similar joint exercises with the Air Force of the Sultanate of Oman. [passage omitted]

Official Reviews Arms Procurement Program

NC0110101989 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0845 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, chairman of the Armaments Procurement Organization [APO], has underlined Egypt's desire to increase the potentials and capabilities of its weapons systems and to raise their combat efficiency in order to satisfy the Armed Forces' increased demands for achieving their combat missions. He noted the importance of the persistent endeavors to achieve parity between our weapons systems and other weapons systems that are a threat to us in order to neutralize them and be superior to them. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with MENA's military editor 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the APO chairman said that the current stage is one of the ambitious armament planning stages adopted by the Egyptian Armed Forces. He added that the plan was based on the concept of the ideal size of the Egyptian Armed Forces and complete strategic studies of what is required in the sphere of armaments, both in quantity and quality.

Asked about the APO's role in confronting the emerging threats around us, such as spy satellites, Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid said: We are working well and we are not blind to the increasing armed capabilities in the region where we live and with which we are interacting and toward which we have responsibilities. He noted that the region is the scene of a constant arms race to the extent that it is crammed with surface-to-surface missiles and smart weapons, as well as military spying technology in space.

He added: The APO is paying particular attention to evaluating and assessing armaments trends in the surrounding region and is constantly reviewing their dimensions. There is constant work to achieve a balance with the forces in the region. He went on to say: The Armed Forces have adopted a military deterrent strategy so that no one should ever think of committing aggression against us or harassing us. Everyone should be convinced that we possess deterrent destructive power; and our constant scientific and planned endeavors to achieve a balance in the Armed Forces or to create a credible

Egyptian deterrent do not aim at launching wars but at preventing them. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Israeli Policy, U.S. Stand

NC0110173789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayab commentary: "Arab-Israeli Peace at the Crossroads"]

[Text] Egypt continues its intensive efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by breaking the deadlock where certain parties would like to see the Palestinian issue remain. By deadlock, we do not just mean keeping the Palestinian issue away from efforts to deal with it objectively. Deadlock can also mean the efforts by some to delude others that the issue is under discussion and a solution is being sought. In this case, however, people would realize that no progress is being made. There is a big difference between taking a step forward and running in place.

Egypt's efforts are intended to prevent the Palestinian issue from becoming lost in the labyrinths of a search for solutions that may never come. Its most recent effort came in the 10-point plan designed to clear up the ambiguities in Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's plan for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. President Mubarak echoed this in his speech before the UN General Assembly when he stressed the need for the Palestinian people to participate directly in the efforts to reach a settlement through a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Egypt's 10-point plan is a conscious political move that foiled Shamir's attempt to enmesh the international community in theoretical talk about elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian political leadership succeeded in placing a stark choice before the Israeli Government: either to accept the land for peace formula or to reject it unequivocally. It is no exaggeration to say that the Israeli national unity government is facing an unprecedented crisis because of the Egyptian stand. The Israeli Government never imagined that it would face such a crisis as a result of an Arab political move.

Shamir, who continues to reject the idea of land for peace and to see this as a surrender to the Palestinians, sees peace from the angle of profit and loss. He fails to realize that his greatest loss lies in rejecting the international consensus on the need to narrow the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian parties and to explore ways to end the conflict on the basis of land for peace and the attainment of coexistence and cooperation among all states in the region.

Shamir insists on his rejection and considers his plan for elections to be the final word in the Arab-Israeli crisis. This, however, does not mean that his rejection is the final word, as shown by the meetings certain ministers in his government have held with Egyptian and U.S. officials in Cairo and New York. Furthermore, statements by the Israeli leades who met with Egyptian officials reveal an important transformation in their political attitude. They are approaching the Egyptian 10-point plan, revealing their desire for an evenutal dialogue with a Palestinian delegation.

Given the clear Paletinian and Arab stand and the divergent views of the Israeli leaders, it is the United States that can have the final word on whether the cause of peace or that of intransigence and rejection prevails. Although the U.S. Administration supports the Egyptian position and is convinced of the positive nature of recent Palestinian moves, we believe that it does not want to clash with the Israeli Government and disturb strategic U.S.-Israeli coordination. Nevertheless, many people in the United States believe that the Arabs and the Palestinians will not make any more concessions and, consequently, that the U.S. Administration should take a more positive approach than merely blessing the Egyptian 10 points. A verbal blessing may not hold given Shamir's rejection of the available opportunities for peace. We have to await the outcome of the meeting between President Mubarak and President Bush in Washington on Monday. At this meeting, many things will be determined and long-awaited stands declared.

Editorial Urges Israel to Move Toward Dialogue

JN3009120089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Sep 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Support for Dialogue"]

[Text] As announced by an official U.S. spokesman, the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers' agreement at the Wyoming talks on the importance of emphasizing an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue is another achievement for the Palestine question at the current stage, even though both side have expressed different points of view.

The two sides have been notified of the current diplomatic activity to launch such a dialogue. This means that the Egyptian proposal to bring the two sides together in Cairo receives the attention and initial acceptance of the two superpowers, apart from the Palestinian, Arab, and foreign approval of the proposal.

This attention makes it clear that the Egyptian diplomatic effort is trusted by many sides for several objective reasons. Most important of these reasons are: Confidence in the soundness of Egypt's assessment and sincere endeavor for a peaceful, satisfactory, and honorable solution for both sides; readiness to rely on any signs of understanding brought into the political arena by Egypt because everyone believes in the effectiveness of the Egyptian role in view of Egypt's positive stands as well as Egypt's known cultural and historic weight in the region; and full conviction that the Egyptian move has the approval of the Palestinian leadership. This means that half the distance has been covered. This move deserves a positive attention by the Israeli side instead of the atmosphere of indecision and divisions it has been received with.

The Palestinian approval of the Egyptian effort confirms President Mubarak's statement to the U.S. paper THE WASHINGTON POST in which he said that he carries a namelist of Palestinian figures whose participation in the proposed dialogue has been approved by Palestinian President 'Arafat, without specifying whether they are affiliated with the PLO or not. This also confirms President 'Arafat's statement in Cairo in which he said that the idea of a dialogue is not rejected in itself by the Palestinian leadership, which in fact was the first to propose such a dialogue at the Geneva UN conference last year when 'Arafat himself urged the Israeli leaders to open a dialogue to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region. Thus, the road seems to be paved by all concerned sides except for Israel to begin an effective dialogue. It is now up to Israel to make its decision, because a prior rejection of what the dialogue might discuss is an arbitrary confiscation of others' rights to express all their views.

Paper Questions Shamir's Logic on PLO Talks

JN0310092289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
1 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Twisted Logic"]

[Text] The statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the Industrialists Club in Jerusalem point to the logic he uses in tackling the Palestine question. In his rejection of Egypt's 10 points, Shamir declared that if Israel were destined to go to Cairo, it would have to sit down with those responsible for the intifadah and the PLO. These people, he said, would pose as the victors and we as the vanquished!

This is the capitulation complex that Shamir wants to use to deceive the Israelis and the world and justify his repeated rejection of negotiations with any Palestinians affiliated with the PLO, whether such negotiations are held in Cairo or anywhere else, even the United Nations.

Whether Shamir believes in his twisted logic or just uses it for political reasons, the only reaction his statements will get from others—no matter how close or far they are from the issue—will be complete disregard. For, it is inconceivable to imagine that a state such as Israel, which is armed to the teeth, possesses nuclear weapons, and occupies a neighboring land for 20 years, could, by just sitting to negotiate with those concerned, enter into a state of "capitulation" to those who possess nothing but a just cause and struggle.

This fallacy, which Shamir is peddling, is part of his continuous fabrications about the "Palestinian state" and his rumormongering to mislead the world into believing that this state would pose a threat to Israel, although the Palestinian state has not yet been established, and, even if it were to exist, its existence would have to be based on ironcast international guarantees and assurances.

All these are not only attempts to avoid facing the inevitable reality, but also attempts to divert world attention from the realities of the situation. Indeed, this is naivete in two respects, or, if we absolve Shamir of this naivete since he is a shrewd old politician, it is malice which will, regrettably, only afflict its originators, the Israelis. They will be the losers in the short and long term as the 22-month-old intifadah attests. No one can tell or guarantee how this intifadah will develop militarily.

The logic, or should we say the lack of logic, concerning victory and defeat is no longer permissible even when describing modern war. Still, how can it be applied forcibly and unjustifiably to a historic stand that is inevitably on its way and for which we must prepare wisely and knowledgeably so that it will pass smoothly and peacefully.

Shamir's Rejection of Egyptian Plan Deplored

JN3009171089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
28 Sep 89 p 5

[Editorial: "No Victor or Vanquished in Peace Battles"]

[Text] Once again, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has provided evidence of his lack of the most basic qualities of a successful politician. First and foremost of these qualities is flexibility and the abliity to face the circumstances and variables of domestic and foreign affairs with appropriate plans and policies.

Perhaps Shamir's recent statement, in which he announced his rejection of the Egyptian proposal on Cairo's readiness to host talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and in which he considered the acceptance of the Egyptian proposal to be an Israeli surrender, reveals the inability of this old Israeli politician to understand the developments in the Palestinian question and the impact they have had, even in the United States. Shamir had previously announced his rejection of the 10 points which were proposed by President Husni Mubarak to determine positions and clarify intentions toward the elections called for in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Israeli prime minister has not even taken upon himself the trouble even to discuss these proposals which have won the support of political circles all over the world, despite the Egyptian president's announcement that these points are not an Egyptian initiative, but simply questions to clarify the vagueness of certain issues.

The triviality of Shamir's recent position is aggravated by his fear that Israel's participation in talks with the Palestinians in Cairo might make Israel appear to have suffered a defeat while the Palestinians would appear victorious. However, this man, who is doing his best to hamper all peace endeavors, forgets that there is no victor or vanquished in wars and that war losses afflict all parties regardless of discrepancies in their power.

The price of every delay in establishing peace will be paid by the victor and the vanquished alike. No people

will forgive their leaders if they reject every opportunity to provide a life of security and peace of mind.

Al-Sabahi Confirmed as Al-Ummah Party Chief

JN3009175089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Approximately 150 members of Al-Ummah Party have endorsed the election by acclamation of Ahmad al-Sabahi as leader of the party for the next 5 years. Sixteen candidates have also been endorsed as members of the party executive committee.

The Al-Ummah party held its 6th general congress yesterday following a general congress convened by "dissidents" on 14 September that dismissed Al-Sabahi and elected Engineer Diyab Ramadan in his place.

Central Bank To Offer Bonds in U.S. Dollars

NC0110164389 Cairo MENA in English 1556 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, oct 1 (MENA)—National development bonds in U.S. dollars will be put up for subscription as of next November 1st. Prominent economist Dr Hasan 'Abbas Zaki, chairman of the committee in charge of issuing the bonds, said that the Central Bank of Egypt will put up these bonds for subscription on behalf of the National Investment Bank and that the funds procured will be pooled for financing productive projects whose economic feasibility has been proven in both the public and private sectors. Speaking at a press conference here today, Dr Zaki said that the funds procured through these bonds will not be used for repayment of loans and that ten percent of the funds will be deposited in a current account as a cover for them in the money market.

Bond holders will receive annual interest equivalent to London rate plus half percent interest margin to be paid in dollars every six months.

Dr Zaki said that subscribing in thess bonds will be open for Egyptian at home and abroad, Arab nationals and nationals of other countries either in their personal or corporate status. The value of the bonds and their interests will be exempted from all types of taxes and fees and will not be subjected to sequestration or confiscation, he added. Subscribers in the national development bonds will not be subjected to any foreign currency restrictions and will not be asked about the source of their foreign currencies, Dr Zaki said.

Libya

Al-Talhi Addresses United Nations 3 Oct

LD0310231889 Tripoli JANA in English 1626 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] New York, Al-Tumur [October] 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation [Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi] has reconfirmed that the tests on long-range missiles in the Mediterranean over the last days conducted by the Zionist entity and the coming down by one of these missiles 400 kilometres off Banghazi threatens the security and peace of the region posing a danger against it. This state of affairs make the United Nations shoulder a special responsibility not only in drawing the attention of world community to the danger of possession of these weapons by the Zionists (as these weapons are of destructive nature), but the responsibility of the United Nations surpass this to cover the taking of necessary measures to eliminate this danger.

In his speech given yesterday at the 44th session of the UN General Assembly currently held in New York, the above Libyan Arab secretary said that the possession of the Zionists of these devastating weapons threatened the region. The record of the Zionist entity and its aggressive practices against Arab countries such as its aggression against Tunisia twice, against Iraq, reconfirm the criminal and aggressive nature of this entity. The UN should repulse it and make the appropriate measures to eliminate such dangers.

A quick look at the world at large witnessing its problems and affairs reveals clearly that we are still far from achieving any real progress to realize the noble objectives for which the UN was established. This is owing to the shortcoming of the practical capability of this organization. The reasons are both well-known and varied.

He added that the violations of the charter were both varied and [word indistinct]. The gravest violations were having the flags of two racist regimes inside the hall of this organization. They are the two most racist regimes in modern history, namely, the apartheid regime in South Africa and the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine.

These two regimes interdependent in everything represented a challenge to the principles of ethics and right. I, he continued, felt that it would be shameful to keep silent on injustice. Should we want to, we could change this.

The secretary of foreign liaison and international cooperation called upon the U.N. Charter Committee to consolidate the role of the organisation and turn to practical solutions to rulings that paralyses U.N. activities, such as the use of "veto" which has become a crippling obstacle in the face of international consensus and not used in defence of world peace and security but to confirm wrong-doings and to encourage aggression, occupation, invasion and terrorism.

He asserted that Jamahiriyah had the honour to be the first to call clearly for reviewing the right of veto, asserting Jamahiriyah deep belief in the U.N. and its growing role which can be enhanced by efforts from the peace-loving nations and to form a decisive deterrent to those who use the policy of force and threat.

The secretary then moved to the issue of compensation for the former colonies of the developing Third World as being a moral issue and to help alleviate many of their suffering.

Referring to what had Jamahiriyah suffered as a result of direct military aggression, provocations, repeated hostilities and the economic scientific and cultural embargoes which were condemned by the international community resulting in the U.N. General Assembly' Resolution No 41/38 demanding compensations for that treacherous aggression. [sentence as received]

The foreign liaison and international cooperation's secretary confirmed the increasing interest by Great Jamahiriyah in human rights—to protect and consolidate basic human rights and liberties. He said that Jamahiriyah has gone a long way in this respect starting early in 1989 by legislating a law to promote freedom and had joined many international human rights conventions. He mentioned the celebrations this year to award the international Al-Qadhdhafi human rights award to the African freedom-fighter Nelson Mandela. He drew the attention to the racists' practices in both occupied Palestine and South Africa defying the international community and continue to breech human rights.

The secretary then asserted that the Palestine issue would remain Jamahiriyah's top concern saying that the nearly 2 year old raging popular revolution in occupied Palestine had reminded the world once more about this people's tragedy and the terrorist nature and women. [sentence as received] He asserted that the popular revolution will continue unless this people be granted its rights in self-determination and its own state over its own land which capital should by the sacred Quds [Jerusalem]. He said that the U.N.—which put over the Zionist entity the robe of legal legitimacy according to justice, rightness and morality, must correct such a grave mistake.

Turning on the tragic situation in Lebanon, the secretary blamed the Zionist entity for such tragedy and said that Great Jamahiriyah had always called for Lebanon's sovereignty over its own land and the withdrawal of the Zionist occupation troops from all the Lebanese soil, stop interference from this entity and other external powers in Lebanon's affairs so that Lebanese can hold a dialogue amongst themselves in a spirit of forgiveness and fraternity. He asked all peace-loving nations to support the Arab League and its tripartite committee to help overcoming all difficulties in Lebanon.

The secretary said that Jamahiriyah, as a state in the Mediterranean sea region, is concerned about all that takes place in this volatile and sensitive spot. He called for consolidating the efforts to promote peace and security in the Mediterranean which are closely linked to world peace and security and all are asked to exert efforts to turn it into a lagoon of peace and security free of foreign fleets and military bases and most of all putting an end to the racist practices by the Zionists in occupied Palestine.

The secretary pointed out that Great Jamahiriyah was closely following the developments after a cease fire was established between Iraq and Iran calling on both Iran and Iraq to respond in true Islamic spirit to efforts by the international community to implement U.S. Security Council Resolution No 548.

Pointing to the phenomenon of international terrorism, the secretary said that it was constituting a source of increasing strong concern and threatens the nations' security and safety by way of undermining confidence within the international community. He stressed upon the need to combat international terrorism, but noted that some forms of international terrorism were not tackled yet regrettably, such as state terrorism that led Great Jamahiriyah to strongly support the call for an international conference under U.N. supervision to define terrorism and its concept and differentiate between the terrorism that must be fought and illiminated and the legitimate struggle of peoples.

He said that Jamahiriyah shares the deep concern of the international community towards the dangerous imbalances in existing international economic relations and the mounting Third World debts and the sharp drop in the prices of raw materials and the wide spread poverty, famines, diseases and the emergence of the economic terrorism phenomenon.

He called for a new world economic system to alleviate the sufferings of Third World countries. He also explained that the North/South dialogue is only aimed at securing the developed countries' interest regardless of the needs of the developing countries. A new economic system only comes about by closing the ranks of the oppressed nations and enhancing their cooperation and additional sacrifices to go along this only way of hope.

The secretary said that the other global issue of concern to everyone was the world environment on which nature is sending to us warning signals of a growing major crisis. Apart from the dangers of pollution in the air, there are other major headaches such as desert-creeping, shrinking forests and jungles, continued global warming and unusual climate changes, the thinning of the ozone layer and nuclear and toxic wastes raising concern in particular in Third World countries which are sought to be dumping places for such dangerous wastes.

The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau raised the issue of the struggle of the people of Namibia against apartheid which need backing from the international community. He said that everyone hoped at the last session of the U.N. General Assembly that the awaited Namibia independence constitute real beginning of the end of apartheid in southern Africa and asserted Great Jamahiriyah's readiness to provide more active contribution to total anti-apartheid fight to achieve victory for

the oppressed peoples of southern Africa saluting the big sacrifices offered by the Frontline States.

He asserted Jamahiriyah's backing to a permanent peaceful just settlement of the Cyprus issue, based upon Cyprus unity, sovereignty and non-interference with secured rights for both Greek and Turkish communities.

On Afghanistan, he asserted Jamahiriyah's backing to all international efforts to preserve the unity of the Afghan people and its territories and sovereignty calling on all Afghan brothers to carry the spirit of fraternity, wisdom and understanding.

Then he asserted Jamahiriyah's backing for the issue of Korean unity.

He warned against the dangers of piling gas and chemical weapon arsenals calling for their ban and voiced support for all efforts to stop nuclear arms race and other total destruction weapons and the establishment of nuclear-free zones anywhere in the world including Africa and the Middle East provided that conditions are prepared.

Group Contacts Panama's Noriega

LD0410011589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] A well-informed source at the International Platform [for Combating Imperialism] has stated that the platform's leaders are in contact with General Manuel Noriega, commander of the Panamanian Defense Forces, to follow the situation's development there. The source added that it has become clear from these contacts that the situation is back to normal and the Panamanian Defense Forces are in control of the situation, contrary to the claims of the Western media.

The source affirmed that the conspiracy hatched by U.S. imperialism has failed. The rebels have surrendered to the Panamanian National Defense Forces.

Sudan

SPLA Responds to Embassy Press Release

EA3009195689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan in Harare issued a press release on 26 September 1989 about the visit of Dr John Garang de Mabior to Zimbabwe and southern Africa. The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] press unit accompanying the C-in-C would like to state the following:

1. The SPLM/SPLA leader's visit to southern Africa is aimed at explaining the prospects of war and peace in Sudan and how Zimbabwe can help in the peace process. On this the embassy admitted that it might be understood to seek to know the point of view of the rebel leader since it is thought the government of Zimbabwe was expected to heed the call for mediation between the two parties when it was requested to do so on a previous occasion.

The embassy then goes on to complain about the type of reception and publicity given to the SPLM/SPLA leader. On this one can only see that since the embassy understands the principle of Dr John's coming to Zimbabwe to present his views, the kind of hospitality accorded to him is really the business of Zimbabwe. The reception is consistent with the usual African hospitality, and the SPLA takes the opportunity to thank President Mugabe, the government and people of Zimbabwe, for the brotherly, warm and cordial reception accorded to Dr John Garang de Mabior.

2. Furthermore, Dr John Garang really has better credentials to represent the Sudan than Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir. On the face of it, Dr John Garang de Mabior rebelled against Numayri's military dictatorship since years ago, while Brig 'Umar al-Bashir rebelled against the elected Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's government only 3 months ago. The SPLM/SPLA, therefore, is a senior rebel.

But, more fundamentally, the SPLM/SPLA stands for a new, united, democratic Sudan of justice, human dignity, and equality for all Sudanese irrespective of race, religion, or sex, while the new military junta represents the old Sudan based on race, religion, and a semifeudal economy. There are thus, two leaderships in the Sudan—the SPLM/SPLA representing the new, united, democratic Sudan and the military junta representing the old Sudan of military dictatorship, racism, religious fundamentalism, and separatism. It is obvious which of these two rebel leaders is morally and intellectually superior and has a better claim to legitimacy.

3. The embassy denies that the present government is a Muslim fundamentalist. If this is the case, then the embassy should explain why they have not removed Numayri's September 1983 shari'ah Islamic laws from the statute book. When they took power on 30 June, they announced the suspension of the Constitution, but then (casually) picked one item from that Constitution, that is Numayri's shari'ah laws for discussion with the SPLM/SPLA. Does this not smell of Islamic fundamentalism, irrespective of whatever perfume is used to camouflage it?

The government has taken the following action that smacks of Islamic fundamentalism:

A. They have announced that Numayri's shari'ah Islamic laws will be taken for a referendum when they know the outcome. The Sudan is about 70 percent Muslim and nobody is expected to vote against his or her religion. Nonfundamentalist African countries with even a larger Muslim majority, such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Mali, Niger, and Somalia, have not taken this course of action.

B. The junta has dismissed 53 judges that they consider secular and replaced them with Islamic judges. Another

63 judges are due for the dismissal. More than 90 medical doctors are due for dismissal on the same grounds. The minister of health has threatened to resign and there is a stand-off. Similar dismissals of so-called nonbelievers are taking place in the old civil service, including the foreign service, as the embassy very well knows.

C. The junta has dismissed all women judges as they think that the women cannot sit on the bench to pass judgement on men. What is this but Islamic fundamentalism?

D. The junta has lashed out against corruption, but has not touched the Islamic banks which have standing court cases of corruption against them.

E. During the coup d'etat 132 youth militia of the National Islamic Front [NIF] participated in a combat role.

F. A 40-man shurah—Islamic fundamentalist parliament—has been formed from the NIF, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Ansar al-Sunnah. This is the body that is directing the military junta and implementing the program of the INF [National Islamic Front or NIF]. There are other examples. We challenge the embassy to verify that the present regime in Khartoum is not Islamic fundamentalist as they claim. What is it that this regime has done to make it nonfundamentalist?

4. The embassy says the government rejects any preconditions for talks and that, therefore, the proposed broad-based government is totally unacceptable. The movement would like to point out that the proposed broad-based government is not a precondition for talks. The movement held talks recently, on 19 to 20 August, with the junta in Addis Ababa, and this was without the broad-based governemnt. The proposal for a broad-based government is part of our peace program presented to the junta and other Sudanese political forces.

The SPLA peace program is in four points:

A. Formation of a broad-based government of national unity of the new Sudan that will be formed by the two warring armies—the SPLA and the Sudan regular army—nonsectarian political parties that believe in democracy, and the trade union alliance.

B. Formation of a new army that will be consistent with the new Sudan. This new army will be drawn from the SPLA and the army of the old Sudan.

C. Convening of a national constitutional conference to debate and resolve the Sudan's fundamental problems and draft a permanent constitution for the new, united, democratic Sudan.

D. Preparing and holding of free general elections, formation of a democratic government based on those elections, and the ratification of the draft constitution by a new national assembly.

The above are the four-point SPLM/SPLA peace program that was presented to the junta in our talks with them on 19 to 20 August. This program has received wide acceptance among almost all Sudanese political parties and the trade union alliance, which have recently issued a charter in Khartoum containing the above SPLM/SPLA points. The only political party opposed to our peace program is the NIF. The call for a broad-based government is, therefore, not a precondition for talks, but rather part of the SPLM/SPLA peace program. In this connection, the SPLM/SPLA is willing to discuss any other peace program, including that of the junta. However, the junta has no peace program. It is only our peace program that is on the table and that should be discussed. If the junta has a peace program, we challenge the embassy to produce it for discussion.

5. The last allegation made by the embassy is that their junta has made many steps since the assumption of power to reach a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the conflict. What are these steps? We ask the embassy to enlighten us on these many steps.

The embassy further says that they have formed a committee of more than 100 members to steer a national dialogue conference and discuss the southern question and that an invitation was extended to the rebel leader to participate in the conference, but this was turned down by the rebels. These points really need not much comment. Except for the junta and the Islamic fundamentalists behind them, nobody in his right sense can take this argument seriously. It is like Ian Smith's government forming a peace committee and inviting Comrade Mugabe to attend in the then Salisbury, and when Comrade Mugabe surprisingly does not turn up, he is accused of rejecting peace. Dr John Garang and the SPLM/SPLA, to the junta in Khartoum, are considered rebels wanted by the law. How are we then expected to attend a conference in Khartoum? No guerrillas are known to have ever conducted peace talks in their national capital controlled by the government which they are fighting. Khartoum's position on demanding the SPLM/SPLA to hold peace talks in Khartoum goes beyond absurdity; that is, it concretely indicates that the junta is not serious about peace.

Garang Visits Zambia; Seeks African Support

MB0310191289 Dakar PANA in English 1652 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Lusaka, 3 Oct (PANA)—The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has waged a six-year-old war against Muslim domination in south Sudan, is seeking moral, diplomatic and material support from African states in southern Africa, the movement's leader, John Garang, said in Lusaka Sunday [1 October].

Garang arrived in Lusaka on Friday, from Zimbabwe, at the invitation of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

He also said that the mosque and church should be separate from the state. He said that no government in

Khartoum had been sympathetic with the SPLA position on Sudan, which is for the real integration between the Arab north and African south.

We are completely opposed to separation. African countries should not fall asunder. They should come together. We will not tolerate the division of our country, he said.

The government of Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, he said, was the only one which had come out against the division of the country.

Garang told the management of Zambian media that he had addressed the UNIP [United National Independence Party] National Council, which is the policy making body of the party of power in Zambia.

I told the National Council that I stumbled on a lucky foot when I came here and my address to them will enable them to tell the people of the problem in Sudan, he said.

Giving the background to the Sudanese problem, Garang said since independence in 1956, Sudan has had no national unionist policy and that some supporters believe it should be an Islamic republic.

He dismissed suggestions that the SPLA was receiving support from the Vatican, the United States, Western Europe, and other countries, saying were that true, they would have won the war a long time ago. The SPLA, he said, operates with weapons captured from the army. However, he said his movement has the support of two northern provinces and is hoping that southern African states will actively back its cause in Sudan.

The struggle for unity in Sudan, he said, would continue until SPLA objectives are achieved.

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 in order to create a new democratic Sudan, he said.

Rebel Spokesman on Prospect of Further Talks

PM0310103789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 89 p 4

[Report on unattributed telephone interview with Lam Akol, "a prominent Sudanese People's Liberation Movement leader," in Addis Ababa on 28 September 1989]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr Lam Akol, a prominent leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] which is waging the war in southern Sudan, has denied the existence of any agreement between the movement and the Sudanese Government to hold another round of negotiations in November.

This came in Dr Akol's response to what Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, head of the government delegation, was quoted as saying recently; namely, that another round of negotiations will be held with the SPLM in November.

From Addis Ababa Dr Akol told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that the SPLM has received no request from Khartoum to convene another meeting between the two sides.

At the earlier meeting we agreed that there should be prior agreement before any other meeting could be held, he said.

Answering a question on whether the movement would respond positively to any invitation it receives from the Sudanese Government for negotiation, Dr Akol said: If we receive a request for a meeting, we will consider it.

He indicated that the last meeting held between the two sides did not produce the expected results.

He also said: The government delegation did not have a specific program. We expected them to have a clear program, especially as the meeting was held at their request. During the meeting each side explored the other's views. We presented our program to them, and we are still awaiting their response to that program.

Asked about the content of the program, Dr Akol said that the most notable of its points is what was mentioned in SPLM leader Colonel John Garang's speech; that is, the call for the elimination of the military council and the formation of a broad-based government including the parties, unions, and the regular forces, together with the release of political prisoners and unionists. This is in addition to building a national army from the two warring armies. Then the transitional broad-based government would assume the task of preparing for the convening of the national constitutional conference, approve its resolutions, and then prepare for the election of the new Constituent Assembly.

He affirmed that they were still awaiting the Sudanese Government's response to that program and that they expect to receive an answer if another meeting between the two sides is held.

He denied that any contacts could have been made between the two sides since their first meeting, held in Addis Ababa in August, "except for the invitation which the government sent us to attend the national dialogue conference in Khartoum, which we received 2 days before the dialogue started."

We saw that invitation as not serious, as propagandistic, he said.

On his view of the proceedings of the national dialogue conference now being held in Khartoum, Dr Akol said: That conference is nothing but a committee formed by the government. It has no powers, because it expresses one side's views. So it is not a peace conference but, rather, a debate in a committee which will eventually advise the military council. It is not a people's committee at all.

He added: The dialogue conference resolutions do not concern us at all, nor do they concern Sudan. They

concern the military council, which chose the conference members and defined its agenda.

On whether there are any contacts between the SPLM and Sudanese party leaders inside Sudan or abroad, Dr Akol said that contacts with party leaders have continued since 1985 and are still continuing.

He denied that the SPLM participated in any discussions over the charter said to have been signed by the outlawed parties and unions. If there is such a charter, we must be party to the debate over it; that is, if those parties want to accept us.

On the possibility of an escalation in the war in the south if the deadlock in the peace process continues, Dr Akol said that the escalation is likely to come from the government side, especially as Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Council, spoke of war and fighting at the press conference which he held at the end of his recent visit to Iraq.

On the possibility of extending the cease-fire period, which will terminate next month, Dr Akol said: It was the government which announced a 6-month cease-fire in September; it is up to the government to extend it.

He added: Our understanding of a cease-fire differs from theirs. If any military movements take place between the southern towns, we will interpret that as a breach of the cease-fire. But if such movements do not take place, we will not start the fighting, because we want to prepare the atmosphere for a dialogue.

In that connection he pointed out that the two sides signed no agreement on the cease-fire, which is taking place through decisions taken by one side and adopted by only one of two sides.

Ex-Minister Interviewed on Peace Talk Issues

EA0210195589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, our program today will be a joint one [as heard] during which we will present an interview with Dr Mansur Khalid [ex-foreign minister]. We first asked Dr Mansur Khalid this question on the dialogue in the so-called committee of national dialogue which is convening in Khartoum: Dr Mansur Khalid, the committee has entered its 3d week and the committee works in a form of work committees. What is your opinion about the personalities participating in this undertaking which the military junta calls a national workshop, and the nature of its work?

[Mansur] First, I do not want to speak about the personalities because personalizing political work is not something objective. At any rate, this matter we leave to the radio of Muhammad Chuo and to the junta's press in Khartoum, which has gathered what it could among the remnants of the ALWAN and AL-RAYAH [former dailies supporting the views of the National Islamic Front, NIF]. Therefore, I will speak objectively.

Objectively, I say that this committee or conference, is attended by various elements. It is attended first by a group, which is in the majority, which has a known political direction, named the direction of the Islamic Front. Participating in it also are civilian and military elements who are still drawn of the gravity of the so-called the southern problem. [sentence as heard] Some of those have conducted research on this matter, and become, in people's opinion, and their own, the experts in this matter. Among others are the men who lived in the south in the fifties and sixties as civilians or military men.

In the final analysis this group, due to the way it is made up, treats the wrong problem, because the issue being discussed today differs in every way from the matters which this group is tackling. Participating in this conference is also a group of nonpoliticized academics and whatever the good intentions of the academics, their efforts at the end are no more than an academic pursuit.

Lastly, also participating in this assembly is a group which thinks it is good for all seasons. These men and women are among those who took part in the round table conference, blessed the proceedings and then supported the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government's violation of the round table agreement after supporting Al-Mahjub's government during the sixties. They also either participated in or blessed the Addis Ababa accord in the seventies and then supported Numayri's abrogation of that accord. They supported Numayri's September laws and now, here they are supporting the bill to reconsider God's law, shari'ah law, which is irrevocable. These are the groups participating in this meeting.

As I see it, this conference serves nothing but the political agenda of the present regime. The present regime does have a definite agenda, for it is inconceivable that a regime would stage a military coup with the aim of reselling and salvaging Sudan. It is inconceivable it would say that its most urgent priority is the achieving of peace and then say that it has no idea of how to achieve this and, therefore, it is seeking the help of the experts in order to define its stance.

In fact, the governing regime, or the political force behind it, does have an idea. This conference, then, serves, as I have said, two goals: the first is to involve people in something, both at home and abroad. The second goal is that the influential group within this conference should issue its resolutions, and that these resolutions, which are basically agreed upon, should represent the position of the ruling junta and the political forces standing behind this ruling clique. The role of the teachers will be the mere legitimization of these resolutions, thus offering them a form of legality.

Of course, this is naive. It is not enough to collect 100 people, or 200 or even 1,000 from the north, south, east and west, and include lawyers, doctors and teachers, whatever their education and knowledge, and then say that this is the Sudan.

What is being considered is a political issue and the political forces must be represented in order to resolve the outstanding issues. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What are the differences between the work of this committee and the national constitutional conference which the military clique rejected?

[Mansur] For the reasons I have already given, there is absolutely no link between the role of such a committee or conference and a constitutional conference. The role of this committee, as I have said, is no more than that of legitimizer. Its role is to give a national brand to purely partisan proceedings. A constitutional conference is not an academic gathering, nor is it a political rally. A constitutional conference, as I have said, is a political conference in which all patriotic forces participate through their representatives, who represent their political stances, and together they reflect all the political trends in Sudan.

Such a conference is the only type of conference capable of making a permanent decision. The movement has never once claimed that it represents Sudan, but it has been calling, since the first speech of Dr Garang, for a national constitutional conference to include all civilian and military political forces. Today nobody who is participating in this conference, beginning with the chairman of the committee, really represents the base which he claims to represent.

We challenge the military men participating in this conference today, including the members of the military clique, to say that they represent the Sudanese Army—to stand for a plebiscite, on their right not only to represent Sudan, but to represent the Sudanese Army.

For these reasons this whole conference is a falsification. We have called for a constitutional conference to be participated in by the political parties [word indistinct], the trade unions, the rural gatherings and the army. The misleading and hypocritical talk on whether the movement has opinions on parties does not help much. Yes we have opinions about certain parties, but this is no reason to wipe the parties off the political map, whatever our differences in opinion.

What we want is a constitution which the Sudanese people will adhere to. What we want is a historical stand. For this to happen, all the political forces—civilian, military, and trade unions—should sit down together and make decisions to facilitate the definition of Sudan's future course, thus laying the foundations for the building of a new Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The news agencies have reported a speech by the president of the clique in which he talks of secession for the south if that is what the southerners want. In the light of the political activities in Khartoum, among the forces which are opposed to this regime, and in the light of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army [SPLM/SPLA] analysis of the status quo, what is your opinion on future developments?

[Mansur] First, in reply to the first part of your question, I do not know what the clique's president means by speaking about the south and the opinion of the southerners. The movement which is labelled a southern movement and which represents the southerners has not called for secession. If this south is represented by those who are sitting around the clique's president in Khartoum, be it in his court or in the parliament which he has invented or at the conference which he has created, there is nothing left for him to do except to order the issue of a resolution from them calling for separation or secession.

If this is not their wish, and it is not that of the movement. What does he mean by speaking of the wishes of the southerners? This kind of talk just serves to confirm what we have already said: All this clique wants to do is to impose the agenda of the front, and if there is any opposition to this agenda, then what this clique will resort to—and it may use the experts from whom it now seeks assistance to execute its agenda—is the announcement of its decision, which is the decision of the Islamic group, to partition off the south. This is the first time that a ruler in Sudan has spoken of the partition of the south or of the possibility of partition.

What we would like to say, unequivocally, is that 'Umar al-Bashir possesses no more right than did Joseph Lagu in calling for a partition which the Sudanese people have rejected in the past. He has no more right than did Anyanya II, which also called for secession, and the SPLA fought relentlessly against them.

He may want to achieve the partition of the south by ruse or slogan, but he will have to fight for that partition. Partition will never be realized through a resolution issued by him in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Council Forms Steering Committees for Unions

EA2909181789 Khartoum SUNA in English 1054 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 September—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, yesterday decreed the formation of steering committees for the teachers, technicians, employees and professional trade unions along with the formation of steering committees for the farmers' unions. According to the decision, the steering committees will work under the supervision of the public registrar and consultation of the head of the Command Council Political Affairs Committee.

On the other hand, Gen al-Bashir has decreed the formation of preparatory committees for the businessmen and [words indistinct]. The said committees would be comprising the same individuals who formed the central committees and offices of the trade union before their dissolution. [word indistinct] al-Bashir also issued a decision cancelling the businessmen act for the year 1989 and the act of farmers' union for the year 1989.

"By a stretch of imagination, the historic concessions made by the Palestinians in Algiers and Geneva last year should have convinced the world of the seriousness of the Palestinians in wanting peace," he noted.

Instead, Shaykh Sa'ud asserted, the U.S. and Israel have been seeking to extricate even more concessions from the Palestinians—"without any serious movement from the other side or any attempt by the U.S. to pressure Israel to accept the principles that the whole world now so readily supports."

"PLO concessions," he added, "have become the magic words in Washington's parlance. What have the Palestinians received in return, I might ask? A dialogue with the U.S. that seems to be going nowhere."

The ambassador said he was convinced that Israel has no intention of accepting any solution that will ultimately force it to give up occupied territories or parts of it. "It is evident that Israel hungers for peace and territory, but not territory for peace," he commented.

It is equally clear, according to Shaykh Sa'ud that the U.S. has no intention whatsoever of exerting any kind of pressure on Israel to compromise for the sake of peace.

The Kuwaiti diplomat predicted that all the current intiatives are doomed to fail if they lack the minimum ingredients for a just settlement.

As far as the Palestinians and the Arabs are concerned, these ingredients must include: Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the exchange of land for peace, the right to the principle of self-determination and a homeland for the Palestinians, and the recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians in any peace negotiations.

"And if the principle of elections for the Palestinians is to be accepted, there should be a clear linkage between the interim solution and a final and comprehensive settlement," according to the Kuwaiti ambassador. "The elections cannot be an end in itself...anything short of these conditions is bound to fail, in my opinion." He also lashed out at what he described as "delusions" in Israel and among some in the U.S. that the Palestinian uprising can be suppressed by force and repression.

The intifadah is no longer merely the throwing of stones by 10-year-olds. "It has become a way of life among Palestinians under occupation who have overcome something called fear. The intifadah is a state of mind and is a case of civil disobedience that can last for many years to come," he asserted.

On Lebanon, the Kuwaiti ambassador said "Kuwait will never sanction or condone the partitioning of Lebanon to satisfy regional and global interests." He added, "partition serves no one's interests except, perhaps, those of Israel."

The Lebanese themselves must come to grips with the new and emerging realities, the demographic and other changes that have been accentuated by 15 years of bloodshed, according to the Kuwaiti diplomat.

He also told his Arab-American audience, many of whom are of Lebanese origin, that the solution proposed by the tripartite committee "may not be the ideal solution in the view of many Lebanese, but it should be siezed upon to attain national unity, peace, and security for the Lebanese and for [word indistinct]."

No matter what role the Arabs and others can and must play in Lebanon, this role can only act as a catalyst to a solution. "It cannot be a substitute to the Lebanese agreeing among themselves to constitutional reforms and a more balanced political system."

He added, "the Lebanese themselves must give peace a chance. The current momentum must be seized upon and must be maintained if Lebanon is to emerge as an independent and unified country, otherwise, the opportunity might not lend itself to a second chance."

And discussing the current situation in the Iran-Iraq conflict, the Kuwaiti diplomat emphasized that although progress has been made and the guns have fallen silent, "the situation is still tenuous because there has been no real progress in the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598."

He added, "the present situation of no-war-no-peace contains elements of instability not only for the two countries involved, but also for the whole region in the Gulf."

Shaykh Sa'ud said Kuwait is convinced that "any solution of the conflict should go beyond just the agreement on a ceasefire. Other provisions of the Resolution 598 must be worked on now. The resolution must be implemented as an integral whole."

The Kuwaiti ambassador also discussed the Bush administration's policy towards the various conflicts in the Middle East. And he also seized the opportunity to lash out at the U.S. Congress for "tying the hands of this and other administrations" in major foreign policy issues.

"More and more we discover that much of this country's foreign policies are dictated by the U.S. Congress rather than the adminstration in office. The sooner this conflict is resolved the better for American foreign relations," he said. He cited the examples of arms sales proposals to the Arab countries as a case in point "which tie the hands of the executive branch." He also noted the "vicious campaign that is ongoing in the congress when it comes to the PLO, the U.S.-PLO dialogue or even such a minor issue like the question of granting a visa to the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat."

He concluded, "it is surely unique to this country that a few vociferous Congressmen who put the interests of a foreign country—in this case Israel—above the interests of their own country can actually set the agenda for the administration when it comes to the Middle East.

Bahrain

Libyan Envoy Leaves Manama for Jeddah 3 Oct

JN0310105689 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0835 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 3 Oct (WAKH)—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council, and his delegation left Manama today for Jeddah following a 3-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of states in the region. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir, Delegation Return From Five-Nation Tour

LD0410045989 Kuwait KUNA in English
1552 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 3 (KUNA)—His highness the amir and the accompanying delegation returned home at 5:45 pm Tuesday concluding a five-nation tour that started early last week and covered Iraq, France, Guinea, Mali and Niger.

H.H. was welcomed at the airport h.h. the crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Commander of the National Guards Shaykh Salim al-'Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Sabah, shaykhs, ministers and a number of citizens.

Ambassador to U.S. Addresses Conference

LD0110103389 Kuwait KUNA in English
0808 GMT 1 Oct 89

[By Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, Oct 1 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir Al Sabah has expressed fears that the current flurry of diplomatic activity surrounding the so-called election plan is solely aimed at quelling the Palestinian uprising and not directed at either bringing about Israeli withdrawal or peace in the Middle East region.

In a major policy statement here Saturday [30 September] before hundreds of Arab-American leaders and elected officials from across the U.S. the Kuwaiti diplomat also urged the Lebanese to "give peace a chance" if Lebanon is to emerge as an independent and unified country.

"The current opportunity (by the Arab Leaque effort) might not lend itself to a second chance," Shaykh Sa'ud said.

The ambassador spoke to elected and appointed Arab-American officeholders, party leaders, and community activists who were meeting here for the inaugural conference on the Arab American Leadership Council (ALC) which is being launched by the Arab American Institute (AAI) led by Dr James Zoghby.

The ALC is a new kind of organization for Arab Americans, which will bring together grassroot community activists and the more established political leadership of the Arab-American community.

Shaykh Sa'ud spoke at length about the emerging role of Arab Americans in American politics, tackled the current situation in the Iran-Iraq conflict, discussed the hopes and aspirations for bringing about a solution in Lebanon, and also gave an evaluation of the so-called elections plan, Israel's role in it, and the Bush administration's position toward it. He further lashed out at the U.S. Congress' role in American foreign policy towards the region.

In his keynote address to Arab-Americans, many of the mayors and elected officials across the country, the Kuwaiti envoy to the U.S. described the current flurry of political and diplomatic activity towards the so-called election plans in the occupied territories as a "semblance of the movement" and nothing more than "a shadow of confusion" where a distinction still remains to be made "between rhetoric and action, real intentions and actual progress."

Shaykh Sa'ud also reminded his audience that "in the excitement of the moment, there is a tendency—especially here in Washington—to forget that all the current diplomatic activity would have been literally non-existent today had it not been for the two-year-old Palestinian uprising—the intifadah."

He added, "it took the stone-throwing and heroic actions by Palestinian youth and civil disobedience by a whole population to draw the attention of the world to the plight of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation."

Shaykh Sa'ud continued, "we tend to forget that it also took the lives of hundreds of Palestinians, thousands of people imprisoned, and the world's most oppressive conditions—economic and otherwise—before the world was spurred into action in a bid to break the diplomatic stalemate existing in 1987."

It is evident now that Washington would not have been spurred into some kind of diplomatic action—albeit limited—had it not been for the noble intifadah. "Neither would we have heard of a so-called elections plan had it not been for the uprising," the Kuwaiti ambassador asserted.

According to Shaykh Sa'ud, "the sole objective (of the current elections plan) is not peace or withdrawal, but a mere attempt by Israel to quell the Palestinian uprising and to return the occupied territories to the status quo as they existed prior to the eruption of the intifadah."

If the current flurry of diplomatic activity does not yield any positive results, it is not because the Palestinians are not trying.

especially the health sector. His excellency stressed that the revolution will work to create an atmosphere of health to enable all citizens to render their services to the building of the nation.

The chairman of the Revolution Council called on health workers to make more of an effort to implement the Salvation Revolution program for the health of the citizens. He said the government is giving priority to the health services, pointing out that it will do its utmost to implement the salvation health program.

Lt Gen 'Umar pointed to the plan to develop a drug factory to cover the needs of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Health in this area. He pointed out that a number of donors will assist in this program, which will be executed in three stages. He stressed that the government will give support and assistance to all programs that the association offers in the health sector.

Prof Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj, minister of health and social welfare, also spoke at the session, praising the role that the Islamic Medical Association would play in the field of health. His excellency pointed to the (?poor) services in all health establishments, listing the reasons which caused this deficiency. The minister explained the aims of the salvation health program, which are represented by the rehabilitation of hospitals and the modernization of their administration systems, including also the improvement of the environment. He said (?approval) of a sum of 430 million Sudanese pounds for the rehabilitation of hospitals in the national capital had been finalized.

Prof Shakir al-Sarraj called on the those at the meeting to make more of an effort in providing health benefits with [words indistinct] the medical services in the country. Dr ('Abd-al-Da'im Tashan), chairman of the Sudanese-Islamic Medical Association, also spoke during the session.

Decree on Committees Clarified

EA2909182089 Khartoun SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 September— Staff Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command and chairman of the Political Committee, has clarified the decree on the formation of (?preparatory) committees for workers' and employers' unions. He said this action had been taken to fulfill the revolution's promise to restore trade union activites in the national context and to turn the wheel of production in accordance with [word indistinct] and the objectives of the present stage. Referring to the decrees governing the formation of steering committees to promote the work of the dissolved farmers' and civil servants' unions, his excellency said that the revolution considered that, for practical reasons, these needed to be steering rather than preparatory committees. His excellency said that after a new law on the organization of trade union activities in consultation with [words indistinct] trade union activities, trade unions would be formed in a democratic manner.

Ethiopian Embassy Demands Return of MiG

AB0310100589 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 2 Oct 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The much publicized improvement in relations between Ethiopia and Sudan is unlikely to benefit from the unscheduled arrival of an Ethiopian Air Force plane in Khartoum, from where Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Sudanese authorities say the pilot of the MiG-21 fighter plane had asked for political asylum when he landed at Khartoum airport and that his application was being considered. However, the Ethiopian Embassy in Khartoum is far from happy about the incident. Ambassador (Seleke Tahoul) told me that as far as they were concerned the plane had landed in Khartoum for technical reasons. Ambassador (Tahoul) said he and his staff had not been officially informed of the arrival of the plane at Khartoum airport. He said embassy staff had not been invited to witness the interrogation of the pilot and demanded the immediate return of both the pilot and the plane.

The incident is a major embarrassment to General al-Bashir's government, who for some time now were saying that relations between Khartoum and Addis Ababa were so good that Ethiopian support for the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army, SPLA, would be stopped. Last June, another MiG-21 fighter plane was also flown to Khartoum by a dissident pilot. The then government of Sadiq al-Mahdi returned the plane to Addis Ababa, but allowed the pilot to proceed to the United States. [end recording]

NSRCC Member Meets Libyan Envoy on Aid

EA0210164589 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Member of the NSRCC [National Salvation Command Council], Brigadier al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, met this morning at the Republican Palace the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office to Sudan, Mr Muhammad Abd al-'Aziz al-Darhawbi. Following the meeting, Mr al-Darhawbi stated that the meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries in various fields of cooperation. The meeting also explored the most recent visit of Al-Tijani to Libya and the agreement reached concerning oil. Mr al-Darhawbi announced that the first part of the Libyan assistance to Sudan will arrive within the coming few days.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, Brig al-Tijani met a delegation of the national dialogue committee for Darfur and Eastern Region. The meeting reviewed the country's problems in the fields of power-sharing, distribution of the wealth, and achievement of balanced development. The meeting also discussed the various problems of both Darfur and Eastern Region.

Official Meets Chadian Envoy, Airline Head

EA2909095289 Omdurman Dometic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yukwan, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and supervisor general of the south, met in his office this morning with his excellency the Chadian ambassador to Khartoum. The meeting covered bilateral relations, aspects of cooperation, and the possibility of developing cultural relations.

His excellency also held a discussion with Mukhtar 'Uthman Abbakar, general manager of the Sudan Airways Company, on progress in achieving a measure of compensation for the victims of the Fokker aircraft which was shot down over Malakal on 16th August 1986. The manager explained the steps taken to compensate the families of the victims and the steps which remain to be taken. It was decided there should be coordination between the Sudan Airways Company and the Southern Council. A list will be issued of the names of those asked to give additional information. In addition, the possibility was discussed at the meeting of resuming the operation of Sudan Airways flights to Malakal, Wau, and Juba.

Government Giving Priority to Health Service

EA2809134889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], addressed the third conference of the Sudanese-Islamic Medical Association at Friendship Hall this morning. In his speech, Lt Gen 'Umar pointed to the devastation and destruction which had engulfed the amenities provided by the government,

"These dictates become the foreign policy of the U.S.—even though it is obvious that these policies are not shared by the majority of American public opinion, as recent polls have indicated," Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir Al Sabah concluded.

Oman

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives in Muscat

JN0310191989 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir arrived in Muscat this evening on a brief working visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He is to convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman on the current developments in the Arab arena and the promotion of bilateral relations in all fields. [passage omitted]

Qabus Receives Minister, Message

JN0310200489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Salalah, 3 Oct (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman received a message from Jordanian Monarch King Husayn dealing with the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir when he was received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus here tonight.

The Jordanian prime minister had arrived in the Sultanate of Oman this evening on a 2-day private visit.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets With Libya's Al-Humaydi

LD0310232989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1825 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Oct (JANA)—At midday today, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi as soon as the latter arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His visit falls within the framework of a working pan-Arab tour to a number of Arab countries at the brother leader of the revolution's instructions to draw up an Arab united strategy aimed at facing all the imperialist and Zionist challenges against the Arab nation.

During the meeting, which lasted nearly 3 hours, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi conveyed a message from the brother leader of the revolution to King Fahd.

King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, reaffirmed at this meeting his support and acceptance of all the clauses, proposals, principles, and pan-Arab aims contained in the message from the brother leader of the revolution. King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz asserted the need to draw up a program and plan of action to implement the content of the brother leader of the revolution's message. King Fahd asked Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to convey his greetings as well as a reply message to the brother leader of the revolution agreeing with the content of the pan-Arab message.

The meeting, which was attended by Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal; Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, member of the Council of Ministers and minister of state; 'Ali Ibn-Musallim, minister of state and advisor at the Royal Court; the delegation accompanying Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, and the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Saudi Arabia, was an opportunity to examine and review bilateral relations as well as the means to bolster and consolidate them. It was agreed to exchange popular and student visits as well as visits by the two countries' writers, novelists, and intellectuals and the holding of cultural weeks and exhibitions.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today at midday. Dr Muhammad Mulham, member of the Council of Ministers and minister of state; and 'Ali Ibn-Musallin, minister of state and adviser at the Royal Court, were in the forefront of those who welcomed him upon arrival.

King Fahd Chairs Council of Minister Session

LD0410092289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Excerpt] King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the meeting of the Council of Ministers held this afternoon Monday 2 October at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. Following the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir explained, in a statement to SPA, that the beloved king started today's session with an extensive address in which he expressed the pleasure of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—government and people—on the convening of the Lebanese parliament on the territory of the Kingdom. The venue, al-Ta'if, was chosen unanimously by the Lebanese parliamentarians. King Fahd expressed his hope that the current parliamentary talks will lead to the hoped for results in maintaining Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, security, and stability.

Minister al-Sha'ir went on to say that the king also reviewed with the council the main political, security, and economic developments in the region. The council listened, in this respect, to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, who gave a short briefing on some Arab and international political attitudes toward a number of Arab issues, beginning with the Palestinian question in light of the proposed solutions. In this regard the council renewed its support for the continuous efforts exerted by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to serve the Palestinian question in

constant cooperation and coordination with the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The information minister went on to say that in the economic domain the council listened to His Excellency 'Umar Faqih, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, head of the Public Auditing Office, and acting Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, who gave a brief report on the outcome of the OPEC Price Monitoring and Production Committee's meeting held recently in Geneva. In this regard, the council reaffirmed the necessity for the OPEC member countries to abide by the specified quotas agreed upon in the meeting until the next meeting scheduled to convene in Vienna on 25 November 1989. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih on Religious Trend, Unity

JN0310165289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 2 Oct 89 pp 1, 17

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih conducted by Muhammad Zayn in Sanaa—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Zayn] The religious trend in the YAR has become a tangible political power. It has paralyzed certain articles in the Constitution pertaining to women's right to run in the Consultative Council elections.

[Salih] Our Yemeni people have been believers and have adhered to the teachings of Islam because they believe in the divine message. There will never be any kind of extremists under any name in the land of the Arabs, Arabism, and Islam. Anyone who paralyzes any right given by Islam to men or women cannot be a Muslim. In our country, all institutions work in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and the national charter represented in the revolution's goals and the people's Islamic doctrine. This constitutional action is attended to by the people and their constitutional and popular institutions, including the General People's Congress, the popular framework for exercising political action. Any attempt to ignore this framework will be viewed as a violation of the national charter and a departure from the General People's Congress and the consensus of the Yemeni people, who find in the General People's Congress the means to participate in making decisions and to play their political role.

[Zayn] Oil production has not yet played any role in economic life. It is said that oil revenues are still scattered and have not changed the economic environment.

[Salih] The objective assessment of matters usually leads to accurate results. The role of oil in the economy should be assessed in light of the volume of exports and revenues in accordance with the current international prices of oil as well as our country's development needs. You may seek the information and facts from the competent sides in order to make a sound assessment.

[Zayn] A Kuwaiti, Soviet, U.S., and European consortium was formed to explore and invest in petroleum projects in an area between the two parts of the homeland. What are the details, prospects, and political implications?

[Salih] Work is underway in accordance with a plan to implement an economic unity proje which will benefit the entire Yemeni people. Regarding its political implications, we can say that this project is a great achievement for the Yemeni unionist action..

[Zayn] What about unity between the two parts of Yemen. There is talk about obstacles.

[Salih] Much is being said about this issue and other issues. Only truth prevails. Allowing people to move between the two parts of the homeland using identity cards is an advanced step toward Yemeni unity, the dream of our people and the strategic goal of the Yemeni revolution. Dialogue between the two parts' officials is underway to set up the best framework for our people's dream and fateful issue, the establishment of unity. [passaage omitted]

[Zayn] The YAR is suffering from indebtedness, budget deficit, and export restrictions.

[Salih] Your information about indebtedness may not be accurate. Our country is among the developing countries that rarely depend on foreign loans. Our indebtedness is very limited compared with the population, the burdens of development, and the other countries that have similar circumstances. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Endorses ACC Agreements

JN0310150589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting this morning under 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, to acquaint itself with the resolutions which were issued by the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit conference that was held in Sanaa on 25-26 September.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed the agreements which were signed by the competent ministers of the ACC countries during the ACC summit conference, endorsed them, and referred them to the competent authorities to complete the legal procedures required for issuing them.

Minister Comments on Current Unity Efforts

PM0310102589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 89 p 4

[Report on interview with Unity Minister Yahya al-'Arashi by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] YAR Unity Minister Yahya al-'Arashi has announced that the assignment of U.S., Soviet, French, and Kuwaiti oil companies to explore for oil in the common area (Ma'rib-Shabwah) is a prelude to further steps in the near future which will constitute genuine foundations for integration between the two parts of Yemen.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-'Arashi announced that the unity issue is an internal issue and that any efforts made or steps taken at the national level are bound to enhance the unity dialogue.

And on what has so far been achieved at the unity level, the unity minister in Sanaa said: Yemeni unity is one of the most important issues which the September revolution always sought to realize. [passage omitted]

On the next unionist steps Yahya al-'Arashi said: Communion has been achieved through the opening of direct telephone lines between the two parts, the citizens' movement across the borders and the common crossing points, the large-scale exchange of goods and commercial and industrial materials, and the utilization of what exists in the southern part of the country, especially with regard to cooperation in the oilfield, benefiting from the refineries there and from the developed industries in the North.

And at present the two parts are consulting over other political matters concerning a study of the unity options between the two parts.

He added: There are unity options which can be utilized in the unity issue. And we believe that the next meetings, which will be held after the October celebrations in the southern part, will accentuate the results of the constant talks held in recent months, especially since May, and those of the recent ministerial committee meeting.

The YAR unity minister said that President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih devotes special interest to the issue, drawing up several alternatives for Yemeni unity, namely, via the unity dialogue, on the grounds that unionist steps should not face any bottlenecks at any levels.

Yahya al-'Arashi went on to say that we consider the Yemeni unity issue an internal issue, so any efforts or steps at the national level can only enhance the unity dialogue, and the leaderships in Sanaa and Aden are aware of that. [passage omitted]

Iran Urged To End 'Aggressive Tendency'

JN0110104989 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Baghdad Oct 1, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily issued here today said that the Iranian rulers should take serious measures towards pece and refrain from the policy of aggression and threat.

The paper added that the Iranian rulers should pursue a new policy with the aim of realizing sincere steps versus the process of peace, and that Iran should respect independence and sovereignty of the neighbouring countries, desist from intervention in their internal afairs and abide by the international charters.

The paper referred to steps the Iranian rulers should pursue for pushing forward the process of peace including the immediate acceptance of Iraq's call concerning an allout swap of prisoners of war (POWs), implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 598 according to its sequential order and the resumption of direct peace talks for establishing just peace that would guarantee the rights of both sides and create stability and security in the region.

The paper urged the Iranian rulers to relinquish their aggressive tendency and sinister greeds towards the region's states.

'Aziz Meets Indian, Mauritanian Counterparts

JN0310211189 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held separate meetings in New York today with Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Ahmed Ould Baba, Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao, and CSSR Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes.

During the meetings, discussions dealt with bilateral relations, international issues of mutual interest, efforts to implement UN Security Resolution No 598, the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the situation in Lebanon, and a number of topics listed on the UN General Assembly session agenda.

National Assembly Speaker Discusses New Parties

JN0210175889 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 1 Oct 89 p 10

[Interview with Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly, by Mazin 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could we say that the committee entrusted with reviewing a draft of the country's permanent constitution has completed its proposed formulation?

[Salih] There are three committees. One, headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], is entrusted with preparing a draft of the new constitution. A second committee, headed by First Deputy Prime minister, Taha Yasin Ramadan, is entrusted with preparing the law of parties. A third committee, entrusted with preparing a law on journalism and publications, is headed by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

I believe these committees are on the verge of completing preparation of the draft laws entrusted to them, that is if they have not already done so. As soon as these projects are complete, they will be proposed for discussion among the people, parties, and other responsible sides. After that, the law itself will be presented to the Iraqi people to decide on through a referendum. Then, it will be referred to the National Assembly for approval and certification.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What basic principles will the new constitution and the two laws on expanding party and media plurality contain?

[Salih] As you very well know, the Constitution is the law that organizes all aspects of life in the country. It defines the policies adopted by this country whether on the political, economic, or educational levels. It defines concepts in light of which the rights and duties of the country are defined, and it defines relations between the three authorities, the type of system, etc. These are broad lines, most of which are no doubt understood by everyone, because the country has a Constitution, and this is now the applicable constitution. It will form the basis for setting the country's new constitution. The new constitution will be a developed form of the old one, especially concerning economic and administrative aspectd in light of President Leader Saddam Husayn's initiative regarding the economic and administrative revolution. The other new element is the party political action where the formula will change from that of the Democratic National and Patriotic Front to the open multi-party system. In other words, the front action formula is cancelled.

As for the press, due to the possibility that parties will be formed, other papers will be published to express the viewpoints of the new parties. Citizens who do not belong to any party will also be given licenses to issue newspapers or magazines. Therefore, we would realize the goal we are aiming for and which the president has been aiming for, even during times of war; that is, that the people have their vote, opinion, and viewpoint on every step we take, with total freedom, because we believe that the absence of the other opinion leads to a stalemate in life and kills incentive in individuals and peoples. Thus, we are very concerned to hear the opinion of each and every person who holds an opinion because this serves the nation and the people. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Do you think it is possible for new parties to emerge after more than 20 years of effective and powerful leading role by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Iraq's political life?

[Salih] We make laws and create opportunities, and the matter is then left to the Iraqi figures who have role in the country's political or historical life. These decide whether or not new parties should emerge. As far as we are concerned, we will be glad, and our conscience put at ease when we create this opportunity. We will be even more glad when new parties emerge to help build our country and promote our capabilities, especially since we passed the most difficult ordeal—namely, the ordeal of the war, which cost us much on the material side and on many other sides, although it taught us a great deal and helped promote our capabilities in many walks of life.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Does the condition of participation in "Saddam's al-Qadisiyah" apply to the figures that played a political role in the past?

[Salih] I do not mention names; these people are known and still alive. They had party affiliations before the July 1958 revolution. Some of them continued political action until after the July revolution but later left it. Some of these are still in the field, and there might be others from among the educated people who wish to establish parties.

The door is fully open to all these to form the parties they wish. As regards participation in the al-Qadisiyah being a condition of the Iraqi national identity, there is full accord on this; it is a fact existing in the conscience of all righteous Iraqis because they all contributed to this sacred war each according to his ability. The sacrifices of the Iraqis were great, beginning with the simple position of saying the truth and ending with self-sacrifice in defense of the homeland and the honor of the nation.

So those who did not make sacrifices did not join the battle in defense of the homeland or adopted a negative or treacherous position will be rejected by the people, not by us as leaders of the country. The people will not join a party that such people call for. These constitute only a tiny minority of the Iraqis; they adopted exposed treacherous positions on the side of the enemy against their homeland. At the head of these are Jalal Talbani, the sons of Mulla Mustafa, the agent group of al-Da'wah Party, and the Communist Party. These will have no place among the honorable Iraqis because they denied their homeland and nation during their ordeal.

According to the human conception of such stances, these people are considered spies. [passage omitted]

'Compromise Formula' on 10 Points Considered

TA0410073689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menachem Shalev]

[Excerpts] A summit meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will take place within a week of the government's acceptance in principal of Cairo's invitation for a dialogue with Palestinians, according to sources in Jerusalem.

The sources said yesterday that Mubarak indicated his willingness to hold the summit in the wake of his meetings in the U.S. with President Bush, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Likud sources denied the existence of any "linkage" between the government's decision and the summit meeting. At the same time, they confirmed that following Aren's meeting with Mubarak, "practical preparations" for a meeting with Shamir are now under way.

Meanwhile, there are growing indications yesterday that the inner cabinet might be able to avoid an immediate coalition crisis by agreeing to the following compromise formula, which has been discussed in top-level talks in Labour and in the the Likud:

1. The government accepts the Egyptian invitation to discuss its elections proposal in Cairo with a Palestinian delegation.
2. The government will discuss the makeup of the Palestinian delegation with Egypt and the U.S.
3. The government understands that the only item on the agenda of the talks in Cairo is its peace initiative of May 14."

The three-sided talks on the makeup of the Palestinian delegation were proposed by Secretary of State Baker in Washington last week. The talks are not expected to be open and formal, but rather to be held through normal diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry officials noted yesterday that, Egyptian assurances notwithstanding, the position of the PLO concerning the Egyptian proposals remains unclear. The PLO, they said, insists on an international umbrella for the talks; insists on the inclusion of clear-cut outside Palestinians; and objects to an arrangement which would bar discussion of the final status of the territories.

Thus, they said, Shamir and Arens may be assuming that prolonged talks on the makeup of the Palestinian delegation could lead to a PLO rejection of the entire scheme.

Arens's meeting this afternoon with Shamir is considered to be critical to the formulation of the pair's final position in advance of tomorrow morning's inner cabinet meeting.

Labour sources yesterday criticized Arens for "straying" in his talks in the U.S. from the decisions made by the "forum of four" (Shamir, Arens, Peres and Rabin) just prior to his departure.

Alignment Knesset Faction Debates Peace Plans

TA0310162589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Report by Mikha'el Birenhack from Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office—live]

[Text] The Alignment Knesset faction's meeting has just ended. The Alignment is trying to address the meaning of the various plans under consideration and avoid talking about dissolving the government or about a coalition crisis. A final position was not decided on at the faction's meeting this afternoon, which took place without any media presence. We heard Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks a few minutes ago. He was asked why the Alignment is not bolting the government:

[Begin Peres recording] That is because we want to discuss the issue of peace and not the existence or demise of the government. We are not prepared to respond to the media's demand to jump from the central issue, which is peace, to the juicy issue, which is the overthrow of the government. As long as peace is on the table it will continue to be the issue that needs a decision. [end recording]

The Alignment position, therefore, is support for the Mubarak initiative. The Egyptian points are aimed at bringing the Palestinians to the negotiating table. The growing trend is not to shove the Likud, but to allow the prime minister to get used to the idea of talks with the Palestinians, faction Chairman Hayim Ramon said. Although Alignment members are careful not to speak about a red line, one does exist.

[Begin Ramon recording] The red line is a deadlock. If a stalemate develops and the process is foiled by the prime minister and the Likud ministers, then, in my opinion, there will be no point in such a government's continued existence. I hope that will not happen and we will be able to make progress on the peace initiative based on the plan of the prime minister and defense minister. A central condition for making progress is the start of a dialogue with the Palestinians. [end recording]

Knesset Member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer demanded to present the Likud with a timetable, but the Alignment ministers will decide tomorrow on their position at the Inner Cabinet meeting.

Peres Discusses Mubarak Plan, Cabinet Unity

TA0210155789 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Avi Bettelheim—live]

[Text] [Bettelheim] Good evening, Mr Peres.
[Peres] Good evening.

[Bettelheim] What is going to happen? Will the Cabinet survive the Thursday meeting?
[Peres] Listen, all the hurdles have been created by the media. We are not out to look for difficulties. We are on the brink of entering a peace process, and in no way will we be dragged into speculation on the Cabinet's life expectancy, because this is not the issue.

[Bettelheim] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, however, did engage in speculation when he said in New York this week that an explosion at the Thursday Cabinet meeting is possible.
[Peres] Right now you are talking to me, not him. In my opinion, a debate will be launched during the Thursday meeting. As long as there is a chance for peace, there will be no government crisis. I believe the chance for peace is the number one issue at this point. If this chance is either killed or torpedoed, I see no alternative. If this happens, Israel will have sentenced itself to isolation and a permanent state of war.

[Bettelheim] Mr Peres, you have said that it is possible to live with the Mubarak initiative, and that there are points on which we can act together with him. Mr Shamir, the prime minister, has said: No way. He said, and I quote: We will repel this initiative, just as we have repelled the international conference idea. Is it not time to decide between these two positions?
[Peres] It is certainly time to make a decision. I think many of those who pride themselves in having repelled the Jordanian option now regret it in their hearts. Also, I have heard several Likud Cabinet ministers expressing regret for having repelled the Jordanian option, thereby having paved the way for a renewed PLO option, which placed 'Arafat in the center of the arena. What was so clever about that?

The second point is the elections in the territories, which were endorsed by the entire Cabinet. Did we propose them while intending not to carry them out?

Allow me another word about the Mubarak initiative. Have you read the speech delivered by Al-Sadat at the Knesset during his visit here? You should compare it to Mubarak's 10 points. You will find a difference between night and day. Had Mr Shamir been aware of some of the elements of Al-Sadat's speech, he would not have allowed him to take the floor. Al-Sadat demanded a Palestinian state, of which there is no mention in the 10 points. He asked for self-determination, which is not part of the 10 points. He mentioned the PLO, as well as other things. There is a difference in the opening positions. Let us be serious and stop trying to deceive people. Was Al-Sadat's visit a good thing or bad? Would you have banned his visit because of his speech? Would you have refused to sign the Camp David accords because of that speech?

[Bettelheim] Mr Peres, Likud ministers are asking: Why do we need Mubarak's initiative when we have the government initiative for which you yourself have voted? Let us, they say, launch elections in the territories, as the entire Cabinet has proposed, and stop dabbling in other things.

[Peres] Excuse me, but what you are doing is playing with words. There is no Mubarak initiative. There is the Israeli Government's peace initiative, which proposes elections. Mubarak's 10 points refer to Israel's peace proposal, and 7 of these 10 points deal directly with the election issue. What kind of an initiative is it, then? Is Mubarak proposing something different from what we ourselves proposed? True, his proposal does contain several declarations [preceding word in English], which are the Arab side's traditional stands and which should not surprise us. There is, for instance, the Arab demand for land in exchange for peace. This, by the way, is also a new element as far as the Arabs are concerned: Once, they wanted all the land; now they make do with land in exchange for peace. I do not laud or admire them for it, but why the hue and cry about the Arab position? Have we not always been aware of the differences between the Arab and the Israeli stands? Is any of it new? Have we been struck by lightning? Did not Mr Shamir know what sort of Palestinians we are going to talk with? Was there a chance that a new Palestinian nation would be created?

[Bettelheim] The Palestinian delegation was going to be my next question. Do you believe this hurdle can be overcome? We read in today's newspapers—and perhaps this, too, is playing with words—that the heads of the PLO demand the inclusion of security prisoners in the Palestinian delegation to talks.

[Peres] Sorry, we are not negotiating with the PLO, and we have no contact with them. We are negotiating with Egypt, which suggested that the delegation be composed of 10 members, including 2 deportees. As for the deportees, we ourselves have said that they have not been deported for eternity, at least not all of them, and that we will allow their return if they behave properly. The Palestinians' views and sentiments, even the look in their eyes, are familiar to every Israeli citizen, to every Israeli politician. Is it possible to change all this overnight? We have to conduct negotiations with people who disagree with us and with whom we disagree. They have their forms of expression, we have ours. We want peace, and they, too, know that a war will achieve no more than that. The matter of love does not enter here.

[Bettelheim] Meanwhile, we have heard that the Likud has appointed Knesset Member David Magen as its election campaign chairman. Is the Alignment also making preparations for the eventuality of early elections?

[Peres] I see that even the Israeli foreign minister is acting as if the election campaign has already begun: He goes out to tell the Egyptians that the Likud has won the elections. Is this what a foreign minister should do outside the country? And what victory was it? The Likud obtained 40 seats, while we had 39, not counting MAPAM [United Workers Party] and Darawshah. I am

not impressed by any of this, but if the Likud wants elections, elections it will be. Our own agenda, however, is still the issue of peace.

[Bettelheim] Do you think that if the Cabinet rejects the Mubarak initiative, or any other proposal capable of promoting the process, we will be subjected to pressure from the United States?
[Peres] A totally new situation has now arisen, Avi. I have a feeling that they are all ceasing to take interest in us, and the situation is much worse than you might think. The world now has a new order of priorities, in which the Middle East features as a less than central issue. The world is tired of wars. According to a recent NEW YORK TIMES poll on what people consider to be the most crucial problem at present, disarmament headed the list with 24 percent last year, while this year it received only 1 percent. The issue is no longer as interesting as the dissolution of communism, as Poland, Hungary, foreign affairs, drugs, education, the economy. The Middle East is seen as a few stubborn fellows who insist on fighting, quarreling, and wasting their money on weapons, all of which they are welcome to do. The situation in which the world wakes up in the morning, rubs its eyes, and demands to be updated on Israel and the Arabs is about to end.

It is essential that we understand that we must become part of our own era—for our own sake, not for the Americans; for our own sake, not for the Arabs—and that it is our duty to bring about peace for the sake of our children and our country. If we do not realize this, no one else will do it for us. People can take offense and threaten with elections, but it is essential that we deal with the central and most vital issue of our life.

[Bettelheim] Thank you very much, Mr Shim'on Peres.
[Peres] You are welcome.

Abu-'Ayyash Discusses 10 Points, Delegation

TA0210114389 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association in the occupied territories, by Kahlid Abu-'Akr in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] AL-FAJR: Last week you returned from a trip abroad that included Cairo. In the course of this trip you met with a number of officials. How do you see the political horizon at this stage?

Abu-'Ayyash: The ball is now in the Israeli court. The Israeli side must respond clearly and explicitly to the Egyptian questions that have been presented to the Israeli Government. The Palestinians and, in particular, the PLO are therefore not obligated to announce their positions, because the questions have been posed to Israel. The minute that the Israeli Government gives a positive response—and I doubt this on the basis of recent statements by Shamir and the Likud ministers—the PLO will declare its position regarding these points, which I believe are not an integral and comprehensive political plan but a mechanism to break the political deadlock.

AL-FAJR: Since the Egyptian 10 points are the current topic of discussion, how do you see these points?

Abu-'Ayyash: Personally, I believe that these points can be a key to activating the political stalemate in the region, or they can constitute a way out of the fences Shamir is trying to build around the Palestinian problem. The 10 points by themselves neither contain a specific timetable for resolving the Palestinian problem nor links to join the various phases of the settlement. They also do not explicitly cover two important points: the PLO's role in the peace process as a principal party and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is a basic right which the Palestinian people cannot give up. Hence, the proposed points are procedural matters intended to break the deadlock and might be a start on the road to reaching a settlement that will satisfy all the parties.

AL-FAJR: But there are those who see these points as an attempt to revive Shamir's plan.

Abu-'Ayyash: I do not believe that that these points are an attempt to revive Shamir's plan. It has been stipulated that they are based on the principle of land for peace, as well as the principle of the Palestinian people's political rights. Therefore, any implementation of these issues is a very important leap toward a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

When the Palestinian people declared, through the Palestinian leadership, that they have a peace strategy, this means that as Palestinians we must move within the framework of legitimate national rights and must consolidate any point that can be made in order that it may be utilized toward this end.

AL-FAJR: The official Israeli stance toward these points is still negative. How do you see this stance? Do you think that the proposed points are capable of setting the political deadlock in motion, as you stated earlier?

Abu-'Ayyash: The stance adopted by the Israeli Government proves again that Israel is neither interested in the issue of peace nor in seeking a way out that would lead to stability in the region. Though Rabin and the Labor Party in general have announced their agreement to the Egyptian points, this does not mean that the Palestinian problem has been resolved. Therefore, I cannot say that the Likud's position even aspires to moving the crisis toward a solution. Therein lies an important issue; namely, is there any real position in Israel toward peace? I see that the Likud and the other radical parties are rejecting even talk about a tool to move the crisis, while I see that the Labor Party and the other left-wing parties are actually incapable so far of seizing the Israeli decisionmaking process and pushing toward the start of negotiations.

AL-FAJR: In your opinion, in what direction is the Israeli Labor Party moving now? Is it toward preserving its positions within the Israeli Government or withdrawing from it?

Abu-'Ayyash: I can say that the statements by Peres and Rabin prove that there is a tendency to take steps different from those of the Likud, but I am not sure of this right now. The political experience with the Labor Party has proved that it wavers and is unable, due to party and personal considerations, to decide clearly on any pro-peace position. The coming few weeks will undoubtedly provide additional proof regarding the Labor Party's position.

AL-FAJR: The talk now is over the formation of a Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel.

Abu-'Ayyash: I have no real information beyond that which has been published or broadcast about this matter, but I believe that the talk is premature as long as Israel persists in its intransigence and rejects any discussion centering on extricating the region from the political stalemate.

AL-FAJR: But Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced this and said that he will present names.

Abu-'Ayyash: What has been announced by the Egyptians may have been discussed with the PLO on the grounds that Egypt is coordinating with the PLO, but I stress I do not have any real information. No one has informed me about such a delegation.

AL-FAJR: Do you think that there is any benefit in forming such a delegation to negotiate with Israel?

Abu-'Ayyash: I believe that the question of form is not as important as that of content. If there is something serious to put forward with the aim of reaching a comprehensive and just settlement, such a form would be appropriate, even as an initial stage, bearing in mind that the form is not as important as the discussion of substantial issues aimed at a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

AL-FAJR: As to the setup of the delegation, what do you believe its composition should be?

Abu-'Ayyash: The issue boils down to what the PLO accepts or rejects, bearing in mind that neither the PLO nor the Palestinian people will accept any delegation that does not represent the Palestinians in the diaspora. One cannot break down the Palestinian people's problem or solve part of it at the expense of the whole or attempt to remove the PLO from the picture.

AL-FAJR: Do you believe that the inclusion of two of the deportees constitutes a representation of the Palestinians in the diaspora?

Abu-'Ayyash: I think that what is very important in this issue is the principle, which is the necessity of representing the Palestinians of the diaspora.

AL-FAJR: How do you view Rabin's statement on the inclusion of deportees in the delegation?

Abu-'Ayyash: I believe that Rabin's statement on including outside Palestinians in the delegation is a positive indication that will benefit the efforts toward an acknowledgment that the Palestinian people are a single unit and that this question must be solved on this basis.

AL-FAJR: What is your assessment of Rabin's recent visit to Cairo?

Abu-'Ayyash: Official statements made by Egyptian officials in the wake of Rabin's visit prove that there is a possibility of developing Rabin's stance toward accepting the principle of land for peace, but I am not precisely aware of the contents of the talks between Mubarak and Rabin, because the contents were only released in brief form and the Egyptian press described the talks as encouraging. Any Israeli political move will not be fruitful unless it is translated into deeds that contribute to recognition of the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, because these two points form the path to a solution of the crisis in the region.

AL-FAJR: There is an unofficial U.S. stance that supports the Egyptian plan. At this stage, how do you view the U.S. role in settling the conflict in the region?

Abu-'Ayyash: If the United States is sincere in its intentions, it should stop speaking with two voices. It must stop pursuing the negative role it is playing with regard to the Palestinian problem. I believe that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's proposal is another test for U.S. policy. I think that the sincerity of U.S. intentions should be translated into something tangible, other than full support for the Israeli side. The U.S. can show its sincerity by exerting pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Shamir to force him to move forward toward recognizing the PLO as a principal party within the negotiations. This should be followed by a call for direct negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli Government, bearing in mind that the PLO has in recent months proved the sincerity of its intentions by its peaceful tendencies to seek a just and comprehensive solution through international standards and frameworks.

AL-FAJR: How do you view the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, especially in view of the fact that many Palestinian officials have declared that nothing has been achieved?

Abu-'Ayyash: The United States should make this dialogue more effective and change it from form into content. It should use this dialogue as a means to carry out procedural matters while announcing clear principles for a settlement in the region. The United States should upgrade the level of this dialogue so that it would benefit the cause of peace, because it is unreasonable that such a dialogue remain a still picture in which there is neither motion nor life. The dialogue must move toward recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

AL-FAJR: Do you believe we can reach this goal?

Abu-'Ayyash: The only guarantee for the achievement of the Palestinian right is the Palestinian people's continued unity and adherence to the path of justice and peace.

AL-FAJR: There are those who call for halting the dialogue, basing this on statements by Palestinian officials.

Abu-'Ayyash: I do not believe that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has been beneficial, but neither do I believe that halting the dialogue will be beneficial. Therefore, we should ask that it be continued through various means within the framework of our defined and known political program. We should score further points by discussing basic issues and not merely make do with a dialogue for the sake of dialogue, as it is at present.

AL-FAJR: It seems that political deadlock and the continuation of the status quo is indicative of the present stage. What is your comment?

Abu-'Ayyash: Continuation of the status quo will contribute to escalation of the region's crisis. This will produce negative results whose consequences no one can forecast. Therefore, time is of the essence in determining the future shape of the region and the issues that will grab the headlines.

Gazans, Egyptian Adviser Discuss Delegation

TA0310125289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Ahmad Tawfiq, political adviser of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, has held a secret meeting with several senior notables from the Gaza Strip, including As'ad al-Saftawi and Mansur al-Shawwa. In the meeting, they discussed Mubarak's 10-point plan and the composition of the Palestinian delegation in negotiations with Israel. They also discussed the nature of the elections as well as deportees Akram Haniyah and Muhammad Milhim as potential members of the delegation.

During the discussions, Al-Saftawi, a prominent leader in the Gaza Strip, said that equal representation of leaders from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be ensured. He believes that prominent Gaza political leaders should be included in the Palestinian delegation.

Tawfiq also met with Mansur al-Shawwa, who heads the charity association in the Strip.

Palestinian sources reported that there is an agreement among the Gaza leadership on which leaders should be in the delegation.

Peres Details Economic Aspects of U.S. Trip

TA0310165389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Report by economic correspondent Yaron Kulas]

[Excerpts] At today's Cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Shim'on Peres reported exclusively on the economic aspects of his trip to the United States. Peres so far has accumulated commitments totaling $1 billion for the absorption of Jews from the Soviet Union, a project with an estimated cost of $3 billion.

U.S. Jewish communities have promised to organize a special fund-raising campaign to raise $500 million that would be loaned to Israel to help finance immigrant absorption. The usual donations for this cause are believed to furnish $100 million. The United States will provide a guarantee for an additional $400 million, which Israel will borrow from U.S. banks. The House Appropriations Committee has requested that Peres guarantee that the money will not be invested beyond the Green Line. Stating that he represents the entire government, the finance minister adamantly refused to make such a commitment. [passage omitted]

With regard to another Soviet-related economic issue, Shim'on Peres briefed the Cabinet on his meetings in the United States with heads of the Soviet Peace Committee. In a meeting organized by businessman Nisim Ga'on, the two sides discussed the establishment of Israeli-Soviet trade ties. The discussion did not revolve around ordinary import-export issues. Since the Soviets are unable to pay for imported goods with foreign currency, trade will have to be conducted on a barter basis. In exchange for the agricultural produce and medical equipment in which the Soviets are interested, Israel will have to receive goods and raw materials to be sold in the West by businessmen such as Sha'ul Eisenberg, who met with Shim'on Peres on this issue yesterday.

The finance minister has received a formal invitation to visit Moscow. His Soviet interlocutors have urged him to make the trip as soon as possible in order to accelerate the establishment of trade relations.

Deputy Labor Minister Submits Resignation

TA0310174489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman from Agudat Yisra'el, deputy minister of labor and social welfare, submitted his resignation to the prime minister this afternoon. The reasons for the resignation were the relations inside the Gur Hasidic court and the lack of support on the part of the court's heads for Rabbi Feldman since he assumed his duties as deputy minister about 10 months ago. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed regret over the deputy minister's resignation. Acceding to the prime minister's request, Feldman agreed to continue working

until mid-October, by which time Shamir will have made appropriate arrangements to guarantee the continued functioning of the ministry.

New Instructions on Export of Military Expertise

TA0310201789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The Defense Ministry has issued new instructions pertaining to every aspect of the export of military expertise from Israel. This was learned by our correspondent Hanan 'Azran.

According to these instructions, the Defense Ministry defense sales department requests that all those dealing with the export of security expertise, including instruction and training abroad, provide the ministry with proof that their operation in a certain country is conducted with that country's approval.

Our correspondent notes that the instructions were issued in the wake of the exposure of the Hod Hahanit affair in Colombia, and are designed to prevent cases in which Israelis assist local elements against the stance of that country's official authorities.

Standard of Living Up; Currency Reserves Drop

TA0310110789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Excerpts] Living standards rose between 1 percent to 2 percent in the second quarter of the year, partially offsetting the previous quarter's large drop, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The bureau said that despite the increase in April-June, consumption spending per capita remained 2 percent below its level for the second half of 1988, mostly due to a 4 percent fall in the first three months of 1989. [passage omitted]

Israel's foreign currency reserves dropped $61 million last month, to total $4,391m. at the end of September, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

The central bank attributed this fall to the government's regular debt repayment and that of the private sector.

Despite the fall, the reserves are still about $200m. higher than at the end of September 1988. Israel is due to receive at the end of this month U.S. civilian foreign aid worth $1.2 billion, which is expected to drive up the reserves' level to a new peak.

Voice of Peace Operator Gets 6-Month Sentence

TA0310113489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Israeli peace broadcaster Abie Nathan was sentenced to 6 months in prison for breaking the law against meeting members of terror organizations. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 3 October, in a related item, adds that "Nathan was also given a 1-year suspended sentence."] Nathan met last year with Yasir 'Arafat and his senior aides in Tunis.

After the sentencing, Nathan said he will not appeal the decision and will begin his term after Yom Kippur. He said he is pleased to live in a democratic society and is prepared to pay the price; but, he said, as soon as he is released from prison he will continue his dialogue with the enemy. [passage omitted]

Reservist Sentenced for 'Cruel Harassment'

TA0310204289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The general staff military court today sentenced Gan Yavne reservist Shim'on Mi'ara, who was convicted of cruel harassment of an Arab prisoner, to 2 months in prison in addition to a 6-month suspended sentence.

Our legal affairs correspondent Amir Fink reports that in February 1989 Mi'ara, who was in charge of prisoners at the Military Government detention facility in Bethlehem, used a club to beat prisoner Khalid 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad for about 10 minutes. The prisoner sustained injuries.

Abu-Rahmah Interviewed on Outlawing of HAMAS

TA0210112489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Oct 89 p 19

[Interview with Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, head of the Gaza Bar Association, by Oren Kohen; date, place not given]

[Text] [Kohen] What is the practical meaning of the new decree outlawing HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Abu-Rahmah] The decree bans HAMAS under the emergency regulations of 1945, which make organizations illegal if pronounced so by the military governor. Such a decree will be presented to court as irrefutable evidence that HAMAS is a banned organization, and there will be no need to present any further proof.

[Kohen] Some people in Israel believe many Palestinians are happy about this decree.

[Abu-Rahmah] HAMAS has never been pronounced legal, and all Palestinians know that HAMAS and all other organizations are illegal. Therefore, this decree has added nothing to what was already known. The judicial process, however, needs such a decree from a legislative point of view.

[Kohen] Let us forget the legal aspect. Could you say that over the years Israel has created a Frankenstein? After [illegible] recognized [illegible] Israel's rule

[Abu-Rahmah] Yes, they did turn a blind eye. Mujama' has not been persecuted by the authorities in the past.

[Kohen] HAMAS leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin has been caught in the past in the possession of weapons meant to be used against Palestinians like yourself.
[Abu-Rahmah] These things have been forgotten, and they are not of concern to the Palestinians at the moment. We have to deal with the present circumstances and only with them.

[Kohen] Even under the present circumstances, HAMAS and the leadership of the uprising do not see eye to eye on a solution; they issue separate leaflets and orders.
[Abu-Rahmah] Their ideologies differ. It is a question of coexistence. We must coexist as two ideological movements, despite our conflicting positions. There is no need for us to create problems; there is no need for us to fight each other or have members of both movements battling each other. We will, of course, ultimately have to live together.

[Kohen] Are your differences bridgeable? After all, HAMAS will oppose any solution that falls short of an Islamic state.
[Abu-Rahmah] The difference between us and HAMAS is that the latter deals with the impossible. It advocates the establishment of an Islamic state over all of Palestine. That is impossible. The PLO has stopped dealing with the impossible and is dealing only with solutions that are possible: two states for two nations. This is the moderate position that most Palestinians adhere to.

[Kohen] Do you believe that if this solution were implemented, you would manage to coexist?
[Abu-Rahmah] In all countries there are differences of opinion among political groups, and we are no different. We also have our radicals and moderates, our superradicals and supermoderates. Each party will be responsible for its own opinions. That is democracy.

[Kohen] How would you rate HAMAS on that scale?
[Abu-Rahmah] HAMAS is undoubtedly extreme.

[Kohen] Who benefits from the present deadlock?
[Abu-Rahmah] HAMAS is trying to take advantage of the present situation, and there is no doubt that it is benefiting, but its gains are not that great.

[Kohen] What do you mean?
[Abu-Rahmah] Most of the people follow the PLO leadership. HAMAS does not reflect the opinion of the majority. All in all, it represents 10 to 15 percent of the population. If this situation continues HAMAS may get stronger, but it may also lose power.

[Kohen] Is there any legal Palestinian organization in the territories at all?
[Abu-Rahmah] All the trade unions and charity organizations are legal, but there is not even one political organization that is. Consequently, the policy of not allowing the existence of political organizations has weakened the population, which cannot express its opinions or decide about its future.

[Kohen] Similar decrees have been issued against the al-Shabibah youth movement. What has happened to it?
[Abu-Rahmah] Being a journalist, you probably know more about it than I do, but in my opinion al-Shabibah has simply evaporated. We do no longer see it.

[Kohen] But there are many other names.
[Abu-Rahmah] Yes. We have the masked men, the hooded men, and the popular committees.

Village League Leaders Announce PLO Support

TA0310195589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Jamil al-'Amlah and Mustafa Dudin, two village league leaders in Judaea and Samaria, recently met in Tunis with PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat. The two have announced that as of now they support the PLO.

Jamil al-'Amlah, former head of the Hebron Hills village leagues, told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that the village leagues have always supported the realistic policy of recognizing Israel and striving toward peace with it. Now that the PLO has embarked on this pragmatic path, the need for the independent existence of the village leagues has become redundant.

Our correspondent notes that these leagues, which were established with the assistance of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration in late 1970's, were designed to counteract the impact of the PLO on Judaean and Samarian Arabs. Several leagues were dissolved after the outbreak of the intifadah, while others continue low-profile activities.

'Terrorists' Killed in Clash in South Lebanon

TA0410052789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in the security zone in southern Lebanon. An IDF soldier was very slightly hurt and received medical attention on the spot.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that last night gunfire was directed at an IDF squad patrolling along the security fence. The force entered the security zone and began searches. Another IDF unit was rushed to the area and encountered the terrorists. Two terrorists were killed in the ensuing clash, and an IDF soldier was very slightly hurt.

Last month there were 42 attempted attacks on IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that over 50 percent of the attacks were carried out by joint squads of Palestinian terrorists belonging to George Habash's organization and the Lebanese Communist Party, both of which operate under Syrian aegis.

Army Declares Hotel as Closed Military Zone

TA0310153789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The commander of the Central Command issued an order declaring the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem and three adjacent streets a closed military zone.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the area has been closed to traffic and that large police forces are patrolling there, preventing entry to both pedestrians and vehicles. The order was probably issued to prevent a news conference by Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah at the hotel. The two were supposed to hold a news conference this afternoon on the administration's campaign to collect taxes in Bayt Sahur. The order remains in force until midnight.

Faysal al-Husayni, however, held an improvised news conference a short time ago on the road adjacent to the closed area. He declared that the residents of the territories would continue their struggle.

Journalists Arrested in East Jerusalem, Gaza

TA0310181789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Five Arab journalists were arrested in East Jerusalem and Gaza over the past 24 hours. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Hani al-'Isawi was arrested in 'Isawiyah. Jerusalem police say that he is suspected of belonging to a hostile organization. It will be decided tomorrow whether he will be indicted. The Arab Journalists Association in Judaea and Samaria protested the detention. In Gaza, four journalists were arrested. No explanation has been given so far.

3 Arabs, 1 Soldier Wounded in Disturbances

TA0310173889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Three West Bank Palestinians were wounded this morning, one of them severely, when an army unit used gunfire to disperse disturbances in the Samarian township of Tubas.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier on patrol in Khan Yunus sustained slight injuries when hit by a stone. He was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. No other incidents or casualties have been reported in the Gaza Strip.

About 1 hour ago in Jerusalem, a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a house in Nuns Street in the Old City. The bottle exploded and ignited on the door, which was damaged, but no inhabitants of the house were hurt. The police launched searches for the firebomb throwers.

Prime Minister Ibn-Shakir Leaves for Muscat

JN0310153589 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 3 Oct (PETRA)—His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir left Amman for Muscat today on a short working visit to Oman. During the visit, his excellency will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman on the current developments in the Arab arena and reinforcing relations between the two sisterly countries in various fields.

His excellency was seen off at the airport by a number of ministers and by the Omani ambassador to Amman. [passage omitted]

Committee Reviews Joint Dam Project With Syria

JN0310144389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Damascus (J.T.)—A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee in charge of matters pertaining to the al-Wahdah Dam project on the Yarmuk River near the Syrian-Jordanian border Monday opened meetings here to review steps taken to implement the joint project which will provide water for irrigation and electric power to be used by the two countries.

Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), who will lead the Jordanian side to the meetings, said that a review of the completed diversion tunnel at the site of the dam will be made and there will be field trips by Jordanian engineers and specialists to Syrian water and dam projects during their four-day stay in Syria.

A consortium of Italian, Jordanian and Syrian companies built the tunnel at a cost of JD 2.5 million to divert the Yarmuk River water during construction, according to Bani Hani.

The meetings in Damascus, he added, are considered a continuation of those conducted by the joint committee last June under the directives of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

Bani Hani was earlier quoted as saying that geological tests at the site where the dam will be built have been completed and work on designs for the dam itself have been finalised.

Columnist Warns of Superpower Collusion

JN0310124789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Oct 89 p 18

["Every Day" column by Rakan al-Majali: "International Accord"]

[Text] As we know, in his speech before the United Nations, U. S. President George Bush did not touch on regional issues. USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's speech before the United Nations also failed to touch on outstanding conflicts and issues, including our issues.

It is no secret that U.S. aid under the name of loans and grants is also extended under another name, which is to encourage the experiment of Soviet President Gorbachev who has undertaken the most important bloodless coup d'etat, toppling four leading members of the CPSU Central Committee. Gorbachev conducted elections earlier this year. The outcome of these elections was the birth of the opposition in the USSR's Supreme Soviet under the leadership of Boris Yeltsin, who won an overwhelming victory in these elections. Yeltsin called for deleting the expression "the leading role of the Communist Party" from the Constitution and for subjecting the party to questioning by the Supreme Soviet. Indeed, a noncommunist government was formed in Poland for the first time within sight of the USSR and with its blessing.

When the Middle East situation was brought back to the fore by President Mubarak's initiative, the Soviet foreign minister declared that he welcomed the convening of an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Moscow. However, we heard vague statements from the U. S. secretary of state concerning the Egyptian initiative and the elections.

It is evident that there is a retreat in international interest in the world's hot spots, including our area. No one can deny that there is a negative stand toward the explosive Lebanese issue. Nor can anyone ignore the lukeworm position of the two superpowers toward the signing of an agreement between Iraq and Iran. In fact, Iranian intransigence in refusing to achieve a final agreement has been encouraged.

It is true that there is an international accord, but there is a question mark on this accord. Will this accord have a positive effect, or will it express itself in the form of collusion, indifference, and attempts to achieve mutual gains? Indeed, the USSR was more concerned about the Afghan issue, while the United States was more concerned about Poland and Eastern Europe as a wholesale dismantling of the socialist camp.

As for President Bush's speech in the United Nations concerning the environment, chemical weapons, the arms race, and social and humanitarian issues, as well as that of the USSR foreign minister, all this points to the fact that the two superpowers and we and the rest of the world are worlds apart. All our cries are lost within these wide worlds.

Hizballah Issues Warning on Al-Ta'if Meeting

LD0310214789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon issued a statement on Tuesday in which it warned the Lebanese parliamentary deputies participating in the al-Ta'if conference about the approval of a new plan that would consolidate the Maronite system. According to the Central News Unit, the statement stressed: The al-Ta'if gathering will in no way reach a political solution desired by the oppressed and by the majority of the Lebanese people because it is being held through the efforts of the United States, Shah Fahd, and Shah Hassan.

In the statement, the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon has also given a warning about the selection of a new president before obtaining a political agreement about a just system.

Fadlallah Discusses Referendum, Hostage Issue

NC0310130689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hizballah, has said he does not think that the parliamentary meetings in al-Ta'if will lead to peace in Lebanon. He added that he does not believe that the way in which the issue is being handled is suitable for attaining an appropriate solution leading to a stable peace. He remarked that the current discussions in al-Ta'if confirm that the sectarian regime will continue. He noted that even if the meetings succeed, this does not mean that the implementation of actual measures will succeed because influential figures might disagree with the deputies on this, especially if these figures realize that the plan will limit or abolish their roles.

Fadlallah also noted that the issue of abolishing the influential role of armed parties has been raised. Nevertheless, he described the al-Ta'if meeting as breaking the political barrier between the Lebanese. He also pointed out that the value of the meeting lies in the fact that it constitutes an advanced step in the Lebanese march toward dialogue.

Fadlallah called for holding a referendum on all the decisions that the Chamber of Deputies will make in al-Ta'if, saying that this is the only way to balance the political situation in Lebanon. In statements to REUTER and VISNEWS, he declared: We support a comprehensive popular referendum. We do not support patching up the authority issue in a limited way. At the same time we do not believe that military violence can lead to a solution in Lebanon.

On the hostage issue, Fadlallah said he finds something new in the international political climate. This might permit many complex issues to be resolved, he said.

Hizballah's Requirements for Solution Outlined

NC0310093089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has announced that Hizballah's acceptance of a solution to end the Lebanese crisis hinges on two principles. The first is that the solution must guarantee that the desired state to be established must be hostile to the Zionist entity. Second, the solution must be acceptable to the Lebanese people on the basis of justice and reconstruction designed to secure the happiness of all citizens. Al-Tufayli added: Otherwise, we will deem the solution hostile to the nation and its aspirations, and we will confront it as we do Israel.

Commenting on the agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, His Eminence Shaykh al-Tufayli told our correspondent in Tehran that the agreement was progressing well, but slowly. He added: If things proceed well, we will resolve the problem. We reassure all who are afraid or wary that things are proceeding favorably.

On last week's meeting between Hizballah, the Islamic Unification Movement, the General Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Fatah—the Uprising, and the Iranian brothers, his eminence said: We discussed current events in connection with the negotiations which PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is conducting with the Zionists through Husni Mubarak. We also discussed the steps taken by the Arab tripartite committee.

SLA Commander Lahd Cited on Al-Ta'if Meetings

JN0310134989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] There is no doubt that the Lebanese are closely following with interest the expected results of the al-Ta'if meetings. As for what Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], expects of the al-Ta'if deliberations, let us listen to this interview with colleague Nayif Khuri.

[Begin recording] [Khuri] SLA Commander Staff Maj Gen Antoine Lahd expressed the belief that no agreement will be secured on the Lebanese crisis if the required amendments are not introduced to the Arab committee's plan. He added that the provisions contained in the plan on the four issues being discussed in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, might undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and the president's legitimate authority. He also said the provisions might belittle the Christians in favor of the Sunni sect which will continue to hold the premiership. Besides, these provisions recognize Syria's right to keep its custodianship over Lebanon.

[Lahd] The Arab committee's plan tackled four major issues; namely, Lebanon's identity, the political system, the mechanism of the executive power, Syrian-Libyan ties and the presence of the Syrian Armed Forces in Lebanon. The provisions contained in the plan on the

first issue undermine Lebanon's sovereignty. The provisions on the second issue change the nature of the Lebanese system. The articles on the third issue divest the president of his most important powers in favor of the Council of Ministers. Besides, the provisions concerning the fourth issue recognize the Syrian Army's right to maintain its custodianshiop over Lebanon.

In this case, I do not believe that the plan in its present form will be endorsed. An agreement will be possible if the deputies amend this plan. They have to make amendments on many issues and things, as all Lebanese parties are not satisfied with this plan. Even, the Shiites have gotten nothing from this plan. The Druze also have gotten nothing from this plan. These are examples provided. They took powers from the Christians and gave them to the Sunnis and the Cabinet, which is presided over by a Sunni. I do not believe that such a plan, if not amended in a balanced manner, will be endorsed.

[Khuri] Maj Gen Lahd believes that this plan, if endorsed, will have a significant impact on southern Lebanon.

[Lahd] The effect of such an agreement on southern Lebanon is something taken for granted. Once such an agreement on this plan is secured, there will be a demand for implementing [UN Security Council] Resolution 425. This is an international issue rather than an internal Lebanese one.

[Khuri] I asked Maj Gen Lahd about his opinion if the points that have to be discussed are not amended.

[Lahd] If these plans and proposals are amended in a balanced manner, that will be fine. If not, I do not believe that there will be a change.

[Khuri] I asked Maj Gen Lahd the following questions: What is the effect of holding the meetings in al-Tai'if rather than in Beirut? Will this help reconcile the views?

[Lahd] They might have held these meetings here. However, because of the circumstances currently prevailing in Beirut, they are now meeting there. However, this al-Ta'if meeting cannot be viewed as a meeting held by the Chamber of Deputies to issue legislations. This is a meeting of the Lebanese deputies held with the sole purpose of holding consultations. Hence, they cannot make decisions that might be implemented quickly, since they cannot issue legislation outside Lebanese territory. [end recording]

National Front Calls for End to Sectarianism

NC0310170789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The National Front believes that the attempts to improve the current sectarian system by granting new privileges to other sects are a recipe for new wars. The front called on the Lebanese deputies to acknowledge the need to abolish sectarianism if they want the war to end. The front pointed out that just introducing minor reforms in the current structure is not enough.

The National Front held a meeting today at its headquarters in Beirut under the chairmanship of its secretary 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization.

Soviet Envoy on Concensus for Reaching Solution

NC0310132489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha has relayed information to General Michel 'Awn that could involve the ongoing international exchanges over the Middle East and the Lebanese issues, as he personally pointed out. Kolotusha hopes that the endeavors of the members of the Arab tripartite committee will lead to positive results and that the deputies' meeting will open the way to introduce political reforms, hold the presidential elections, and achieve peace in Lebanon. Here is Kolotusha:

[Begin recording] [Kolotusha] We wish success to the tripartite committee's endeavors to achieve peace in Lebanon. We have great hopes that the exchanges made by the members of the tripartite committee with the Lebanese and regional parties will lead to positive results. We also hope that the deputies' meeting will open the way toward introducing political reforms, holding elections, and achieving peace in this country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could we say there is an international consensus on attaining positive results regarding Lebanon?

[Kolotusha] Yes, I believe so. I believe there is an international consensus on the need to accelerate the search for a solution in Lebanon as well as on the ways to pursue such a goal; that is, by backing the tripartite committee's endeavors. [end recording]

Aeroflot To Resume Flights to Beirut on 4 Oct

NC0310174189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Sources at the Soviet airline Aeroflot have announced that the company will resume flights to and from Lebanon tomorrow, Wednesday. A plane from [word indistinct] will land at Beirut international airport tomorrow.

Army To Withdraw From Lebanon After Accord

JN0310143889 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 3 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Damascus, 3 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN says: 'Awn's gang was forced to agree to the Arab committee's statement. But this gang has gone back on its declared position and resumed its suspect attempts to foil the Arab solution and undermine the efforts which have been exerted so far. What happened in the last 2 days on the security level contradicts the isolationists' commitments to adhere to the cease-fire and open the way for the political solution.

The newspaper adds: Once again, events have shown that those responsible for the Lebanese people's continued suffering are those who strongly adhere to the rotten system of sectarian privileges, are hostile to the Arab solution, are linked to Israel, and adhere to the Baghdad dictator who is drowning Lebanon in a bloodbath. They are living in the shelter of the dark B'abda Palace, and are seeking to bury Lebanon.

TISHRIN explains that once again the isolationists are confronting the vast majority of the Lebanese people who are tired of subversion, killing, and deportation. They are renewing their confrontation with the Arab solution and are turning their backs on the world that has become convinced of the futility of the military solution and the necessity of reform and agreement among the Lebanese parties. They are doing this in an attempt to abort the efforts of the Arab committee which have won Syrian support.

The paper says: The Syrian forces, which entered Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese Government, will withdraw after the removal of the causes which led to their entry in the first place, represented by the outbreak of the civil war and the danger of the Israeli aggression. The Syrian forces will withdraw after the national accord government is established.

TISHRIN says: In the absence of a solution, the presence of the Syrian troops constitutes the only sure guarantee against the occurrence of dreadful massacres. The Lebanese people adhere to the presence of these troops. The Arabs have become convinced that the departure of these troops now—and before reforms and accord are achieved and before Israel is expelled—might lead to the destruction of all Lebanon and the aggravation of the Lebanese fire.

The paper adds: 'Awn's attempts to misrepresent events in Lebanon and present the Lebanese conflict as one with Syria can no longer convince anyone. Everyone realizes that these maneuverings have one objective; namely, to avoid carrying out political reform.

TISHRIN concludes by affirming that those displaying empty heroism and adhering to past glories must understand that their dreams of maintaining the rotten sectarian system have evaporated once and for all, and that their calls will fall on deaf ears. They isolated themselves, and are swimming against the tide of history in a manner that reminds us of the inevitable black fate that awaits everyone who walks this slippery fatal path.

Al-Shar' Addresses UN on Regional Issues, Lebanon

JN0310205489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that although some years have passed since the improvement in the atmosphere of international relations, which has positively affected the regional disputes in the world, the Arab-Israeli conflict is still following another course. This came in the speech delivered by Faruq al-Shar' today at the 44th session of the UN General Assembly.

Al-Shar' added that Israel's rulers, with their Zionist doctrine that is unlike any other doctrine in terms of intransigence and blatancy, are still living outside this age. They still depend on myths and illusions to achieve their objective of establishing a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. They cannot hide this objective and they expressed anger toward their American friends when they advised them to abandon their dream of a Greater Israel.

The foreign minister said the Israeli rulers' attempt to safeguard the so-called purity of the Israeli state while, at the same time, insisting on continuing their occupation of the Arab territories has placed them in a state of continuous confrontation to strip these territories from their owners. This led them to practices that are uglier than the racist practices of South Africa.

Al-Shar' added: The Israelis do not seek peace because they want land and peace together. And they cannot achieve this. He stated that any initiative within the framework of these Israeli concepts will never succeed.

Al-Shar' said: The brave Palestinian intifadah, the daring resistance in southern Lebanon, and our people's steadfastness in the Syrian-occupied Golan Heights are a revolution against these Israeli concepts and policies. He stressed that peace can only be achieved through Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territory and the recognition of the inalienable, national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state in Palestine on the basis of the UN resolutions.

On the situation in Lebanon, the foreign minister said: Between 1988 and September 1989, Lebanon witnessed the worst chapter in the history of its civil war. Now that the guns have been silenced, the Lebanese left their shelters, the displaced returned to their homes, and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies began a dialogue, the true positions have been distinguished from the false

ones, affirming that the plot was not targeted against Lebanon and its unity, of only people and land, but also aimed at putting pressure on Syria and its steadfastness in the face of Israeli ambitions. The plot also aimed at pulling a thick curtain over the Palestinian intifadah and the hopes of liberation and independence it represents.

Al-Shar' said: The plot was not so small as the executive tools in East Beirut as was intentionally depicted for many people all over the world. What this distorted picture wanted to implant in people's minds is part of the scenario of the big plot. The main regional and international engineers of this plot tried not to appear directly on the stage.

The foreign minister added: Some known countries devoted themselves to leading these events and they mobilized many capitals to escalate them. They also shipped large quantities of weapons and ammunition to feed them. Secret contacts were held to follow up events, naval fleets were moved in their direction, prayers were said because of them, and the Security Council was called on many times to contain these events. He added: The engineers of the plot mistakenly tried to depict the problem as one between Syria and Lebanon, and not, as it really is, between a Lebanese minority, which monopolizes power in accordance with the Constitution laid down by the French mandate authorities, and the Lebanese majority, which calls for political and constitutional reforms to guarantee equality among all Lebanese citizens.

Al-Shar' said: They made these falsifications in a desperate attempt to claim that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is illegitimate. The objective is to achieve three simultaneous objectives; first, to conceal the illegitimacy of the minority's military government; second, to evade the fair demands of the Lebanese majority for reforms and equality; and third, to maintain the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

Al-Shar' added: No matter what, the recent statement of the Arab tripartite committee has constituted a positive turning point in the course of the serious events that occurred in Lebanon since September 1988. This statement calls for a cease-fire, lifting the siege, and forming a Lebanese security committee to monitor the cease-fire and search ships to prevent the entry of weapons and ammunition to any party. This is exactly what Syria wanted the Lebanese parties to accept since the outbreak of the bloody events, as this is the correct approach for a dialogue among the Lebanese and for a political solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Syria supported the Arab tripartite committee's statement the moment it was issued. It asserted its support for the efforts of the committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution and its commitment to help the Lebanese national accord government to spread its power over all the Lebanese territory proceeding from the distinguished Syrian-Lebanese relations that derive their strength fr the roots of neighborhood, history, and the comm strategic interests.

Holds News Conference

JN0410072889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed t any settlement of the conflict in the region should re in Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occup Arab territories, and a guarantee of the Palestinian A people's national rights, foremost of which is their ri to self-determination and to establishing their indep dent state.

At a news conference he held in New York yesterd Al-Shar' said that any just and comprehensive settlem in the Middle East must be achieved through an int national peace conference, under UN auspices, to attended by all parties concerned, including the PL Al-Shar' pointed out that any settlement that ta Yitzhaq Shamir's plans into consideration will ne lead to peace in our region, because this plan confli with the international community's position on settlement and with the UN resolutions.

The foreign minister added: The intifadah did not br out against the acceptance of Shamir's plan, beca such proposals have always existed. Moreover, th proposals do not constitute a Palestinian option but Israeli one.

Al-Shar' spoke about his meeting in New York w Faruq Qaddumi [head of the PLO Political Depa ment]. He described the meeting as constructive and sa it was permeated by cordiality. He said it was agreed th a Palestinian delegation will visit Damascus within t next few weeks. Al-Shar' expressed his belief that a peaceful settlement that excludes Syria and the PLO w never be a settlement. He said: No one can exclude There will be no settlement or a peace process th conflicts with our viewpoint.

The minister expressed Syria's support for the Ar tripartite committee's plan, and described it as objecti realistic, and unbiased. He said this plan gains the Ar states' support.

On relations between Syria and Great Britain, Al-Sha said the break in diplomatic relations between Syria a Britain will not last forever. He added: I would like reiterate it was not Syria that caused harm to the relations. The normalization of relations between Syr and Britain will be in the interest of both countries.

Asked whether the absence of ties between Syria a Britain blocks a solution to the hostage issue, the forei minister said: Holding hostages is an act of terroris that contradicts our clear position. Had we been able help secure the release of any of the hostages, we wou not have hesitated to do so.

Concessions to Israel 'Disaster' for Intifadah

PM0310130789 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Sep 89 p 2

[Article by Ilyas Khuri: "Intifadah Is the Reply to the Plot"]

[Text] The political formula adopted by Israel to find some kind of solution to the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem becomes clearer day after day; namely, a return to the concept of the Camp David accords on the grounds that it is the only means which it would accept.

In view of that clear and open position, the illusions held by many people at both the Arab and international levels—namely, that Israel is actually seeking peace and can backtrack from its intransigent positions as a result of the numerous developments which the world has witnessed over the past 2 years, most notably the heroic intifadah in the occupied Arab territories and the East-West detente approach—have disappeared.

There has been, and there still is, a great possibility of the intifadah's succeeding. In the relatively short term, the intifadah could succeed in realizing political gains that would force Israel to submit to the fait accompli and retreat before the intifadah's influence and the results of its achievements. But that possibility has been destroyed by the emergence of a Palestinian and Arab trend which hastened to offer Israel all the concessions it demanded, including a recognition of its usurpation of Palestine and an endorsement of its current and future expansionist ambitions. These concessions have helped Israel, albeit temporarily, get out of its dilemma and dealt a treacherous stab to the intifadah, which has directed its attention to a minimum of objectives that cannot be abandoned: the liberation of the occupied territories, repatriation, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

And that explains the intransigence which Israel has started to display recently and its repeated announcement that the Camp David concept, especially autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, is its maximum concession. This confirms once again an important fact in our conflict with our enemy: The more concessions the Arabs make and the more they express their good intentions toward it, the more intransigent and rigid Israel becomes.

Thus it has been ascertained that the current moves for a settlement will lead to nothing but a pan-Arab disaster, if they succeed. That is, the option is still the continuation and escalation of the intifadah, since revolution in the occupied territories is the only reply to these dangers. And our steadfast kinfolk there understand more than others the nature of and the truth about their enemy. They have proved that they are capable of confronting and undermining his schemes.

Afghanistan

Western Diplomats Claim Soviet Aid Continues

BK0410062689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Western diplomats in Kabul have said that the Soviet Union is still providing a large quantity of weapons to Afghanistan to help the Najibullah regime. They said that 40 Soviet planes are landing at Kabul airport daily.

Reports say that the mujahidin have launched a joint operation against the Kabul regime's military brigade stationed in Lowgar Province. At least 90 soldiers of the Kabul regime have been killed and 19 captured. Two mujahidin soldiers were martyred and six injured in the operation.

Mujahidin Operations in Jalalabad Noted

BK0310162589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] There are reports of fierce fighting in various parts of Afghanistan between mujahidin and Kabul troops. In Jalalabad, the mujahidin damaged 3 planes and a helicopter of Kabul regime, besides destroying 10 tanks and armored vehicles.

7 Killed in Mujahidin Rocket Attack on Kabul

BK0410014089 Hong Kong AFP in English 2209 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 3 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin fired six rockets on Kabul Tuesday killing seven people and seriously wounding a further seven, an Afghan Government spokesman said. One of the rockets landed in the "Martyrs Cemetery" in the city's southeast, spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani said.

(State-run Radio Kabul said in an earlier broadcast monitored in Islamabad that three rockets had been fired killing at least three people and injuring 13.

(The radio said the rockets landed at "crowded places" without specifying where, adding that "a lot of property was also damaged by the rockets explosion.")

As Mr. Amani was speaking at the Foreign Ministry, three loud explosions rattled the windows of the building, which he attributed to government rockets being fired. There are several launching ramps for Soviet-built Frog-7 and Scud surface-to-surface missiles located near Kabul.

According to officials, 17 people were killed and 38 wounded in a mujahidin rocket attack on the capital Sunday. At the time Mr. Amani had said at least 10 people were killed and 27 wounded in the weekend attack in which 15 rockets were fired. Kabul has been under heavy mujahidin rocket attack since late June with over 300 people killed and several hundred injured.

Council of Ministers Executive Committee Meets

LD0310224489 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The Administration Office of the Council of Ministers reported that the regular session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee was held this afternoon at the Council of Ministers' headquarters under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, with the participation of the deputy prime ministers, other ministers, and heads of departments of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The session thoroughly discussed the results of the visit to Takhar, Balkh, and Konduz Provinces by the select commission headed by Deputy Prime Minister Mahbubullah Koshani and some officials in charge of ministries and departments. It was pointed out that as a result of the efforts by the relevant organs, the political and economic situation in these provinces, in comparison with other provinces, has noticeably improved. The administrative center of Takhar Province has been transferred to Khowaja Ghar city and government rule has been restored again in this region. A security belt around the city has been created and various security posts set up around the city; some of the villages are under government rule and a number of the armed opposition have given up fighting and fratricide and have joined the policy of national reconciliation. A number of youths volunteered to complete their military service in the units of the Armed Forces.

Konduz, which came under savage attacks by the extremist groups last year and suffered heavy losses, has been rebuilt with the efforts of the relevant organs; offices, schools, mosques, commercial centers and houses were restored or built; new buildings were constructed and city services such as electricity, drinking water, and the communication network are in operation. At this very moment departments in Konduz are extending the necessary assistance to Takhar Province. For example, Takhar Province's needs, to a certain extent, have been fulfilled in the areas of public health and education and training, medicine and medical instruments, school books and equipment, chemical fertilizers, seeds, agricultural pesticides, and insecticides, basic commodities needed by the inhabitants and government departments, as well as petroleum products, are ready to be transported to Khowaja Ghar city.

It was pointed out at this session that despite effective measures it is necessary for some other needs of Takhar, Konduz, and Balkh Provinces to be fulfilled as soon as possible. The session approved the contingency plan designed by the appointed commission. Specific duties were allotted to ministries, departments, and executive committees of the above provinces to implement the duties outlined in the contingency plan.

At today's session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee, the circumstances of supplying the quota of

wheat and flour, or paying the price difference on the open market to coupon holders in the provinces, was discussed. It was decided that the undelivered quota of wheat or flour, or their price differences, should be paid to the coupon holders. In those provinces where the possibility of transporting or purchasing wheat or flour, is not feasible, the price difference should be paid after seeing the receipt.

At today's session a proposal by the Consultative Council on the creation of some extra organizational structure for the private sector, including facilities for the transportation of goods belonging to private investors and the expansion of new transportation facilities using the vehicles of those investors, which is not within the government transportation plan, was approved by specific order.

Regarding better organization of the transit and shipping enterprises of the private sector, the Ministry of Commerce is being asked to draft a provision regulating the work of those enterprises in consultation with the Economic Consultative Council, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Justice, as well as in consultation with the representative of the above enterprises. The formalities should be completed by the end of Mezan [ends 22 October] of the current year.

In addition, permits for the registration of forms to import raw materials, spare parts, and machinery for private industrial enterprises was also considered at this session.

Bangladesh

Joint Press Statement on Bhutto Visit Issued

BK0310163789 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Pakistan have called for intensification of cooperation among the countries of the South for collective self-reliance. This was stated in a joint press statement issued at the end of the 3-day official visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Bangladesh. It said two countries resolved that such cooperation will reduce vulnerability of external economic factors.

The statement said: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Ershad discussed various issues and the talks were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere reflecting close fraternal relations between the two countries. The two leaders had extensive exchange of views on matters of mutual interest covering bilateral, regional, and international issues.

The two sides noted that Bangladesh and Pakistan share identical views on major international issues. They expressed satisfaction at the growing detente between the two superpowers and the progress achieved in the fields of arms control and nuclear disarmament. Bangladesh and Pakistan noted that the global climate for international economic cooperation has been deteriorating in recent years. The Third World countries have been [words indistinct] problems with their mounting debt aggravated by reduced flow of development assistance and growing protectionist trend in developed countries.

The two sides reaffirmed their determination to invigorate and widen the cooperation between them in different fields. President Ershad and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto approved the recommendations of the third meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission held recently in Dhaka and directed that these should be implemented expeditiously.

The Bangladesh side thanked Pakistan for its offer of low interest state credit and supply of credits to Bangladesh. An agreement has already been reached to purchase two container ships from Karachi Shipyard by Bangladesh under this credit, the press statement added.

The two countries signed a new cultural exchange program under the cultural and scientific agreement.

Both sides discussed the question of division of assets and liabilities and described the question as another complicated issue. They agreed to take early measures for a satisfactory solution to this long-standing issue. The two sides also discussed other outstanding issues and agreed to resolve them expeditiously.

They agreed to expand cooperation in the field of science and technology and manpower development. They emphasized the need to consider an agreement in this regard.

The joint press statement said both sides agreed that efforts should be intensified for consolidation of what has already been achieved in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. They hoped that the seventh session of the SAARC Council of Ministers would be convened at Islamabad soon.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto extended her invitation to President Ershad and first lady Begum Roushan Ershad to visit Pakistan. The invitation has been accepted.

Commentary Hails Visit

BK0310160089 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Unattributed news commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh-Pakistan relations, based on a sound footing, have reached a new height following the just-concluded visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to this country. During the summit-level talks held in Dhaka, there has been wide-ranging understanding on expanding bilateral cooperation in respect of export trade as well as cultural exchange programs to mutual advantage.

The already existing excellent relations between the two countries will now be further cemented with Benazir Bhutto's declared resolve to move forward along the path of cooperation and friendship without any let up. Benazir-Ershad talks, held in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding, covered the whole range of bilateral, regional and international issues. The two leaders, who led the delegations of their respective country, not only reviewed the state of bilateral ties but also explored new areas of cooperation in a spirit of mutual trust and faith. At the same time, the two sides promised to continue to work together for promoting regional peace and security as well as their adherence to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of one another.

In the spirit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC], which is an abiding force designed to promote cooperation among the member states, both Bangladesh and Pakistan agreed to uphold the principles of sovereign equality, independence, and territorial integrity of all states.

It is pertinent to mention that both the countries believe in non-use of force in interstate relations, while regional peace and security remains their total commitment. Both the countries have expressed their abhorrence of induction of nuclear weapons into our region.

President Ershad's support to the call for turning South-east [as heard] Asia a nuclear free zone is a bold step indeed. Bangladesh president not only lent full support to Pakistan on this issue but also hoped that other South Asian nations will join the efforts to free the region from the threat of nuclear weapons of mass destruction. In this context Benazir Bhutto's initiative and final signing of India-Pakistan agreement on not attacking each other's nuclear facilities is a positive achievement, which Bangladesh has welcomed. Indications are very much there that the chances of conflict would dissipate so long as the spirit of tolerance and peace prevail.

Benazir Bhutto's visit has certainly opened up a new chapter in Bangladesh-Pakistan relations. There has been positive development in respect of unresolved issues, such as repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis as well as division of assets belonging to undivided Pakistan.

President Ershad in his banquet speech observed that fresh imagination and courage are needed to sort out the unresolved issues and expressed his confidence that the prime minister would give a new impetus to resolving the problem existing between the two countries. In [words indistinct] encouraging before her departure, Benazir Bhutto categorically stated that both the countries were apprised of the matter and officials of both sides have been detailed to work out equitable solution to the complex issues.

Clearly, the talks between the Pakistani and Bangladeshi leaders have been fruitful and Ms Bhutto herself called her Dhaka visit successful.

On the regional issues, covering the topics such as Afghanistan and India-Nepal dispute, both sides adopted a pragmatic stand. As regard Afghanistan, both are in agreement that political problems should be addressed politically, and key to the solution lies in a broadbased government representing different factions.

Both the leaders, reaffirming the spirit in the SAARC ideal, were confident that the current trade problems between India and Nepal will soon be resolved to mutual satisfaction. The SAARC itself demands resolution of issues through dialogue in a spirit of cooperation for better development of the region.

Bangladesh president has accepted the invitation of Benazir Bhutto to visit Pakistan in some future date.

If the amount of goodwill and understanding that dominated the visit and the fruitful talks are any yardstick, then we can emphatically say that many more happy returns will characterize Bangladesh-Pakistan relations so that our two people could move hand-in-hand along the path of development and progress.

Ershad Appoints New Minister, Changes Portfolios

BK0310161589 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] President Ershad has appointed a new minister and reallocated the portfolios of some cabinet ministers and state ministers. Retired Colonel Abdul Malik, MP [member of Parliament] and administrator of Dhaka Municipal Corporation, has been sworn in as the new cabinet minister. President Ershad administered the oath of office at a simple function at his office today. He has been given the portfolio of the ministry of textiles.

Mr Sunil Gupta was given the charge of the Ministry of Fisheries, Livestock; Mr Zafar Imam, Ministry of Cultural Affairs; and Sardar Amjad Hussain, Ministry of Land.

Changes of portfolios of the state ministers are: Mr Nur Mohammad Khan, Ministry of Industry; Mr T.M. Ghiasuddin Ahmed, Ministry of Relief; and Mr Mohammad (Tanzul) Islam Chowdhury, Ministry of Agriculture.

The president has appointed LGRD [Local Government, Rural Development] and cooperative minister, Naziur Rahman, as the administrator of Dhaka Municipal Corporation in addition to his present responsibility. Mr Naziur Rahman will take the charge as the administrator on Monday next [9 October].

Air Force Jet Crashes; Pilot Killed 2 Oct

BK0310005289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Oct 2 (AFP)—A Bangladesh Air Force jet has crashed onto an island in the Bay of Bengal killing the pilot, informed sources said here Monday.

Flight Lieutenant Abdul Bari, piloting the Attack-5 type plane, was on a regular exercise off the resort town of Cox's Bazaar when the plane crashed Sunday on Kutubdia Island, the sources said.

An Air Force source here said the cause of the crash was not yet known but an investigation had been launched.

Rival Dhaka University Students Battle With Guns

BK0310072289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 3 (AFP)—Riot police moved on to the campus of Dhaka University Tuesday after rival students battled with guns and bombs overnight, ending some two weeks of calm, student sources said. They said the situation was tense following the clashes in which at least five people, including a journalist, were injured by pistol shots. The sources spoke of indiscriminate firing and panicking students running for cover.

They said the clashes were between the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL) and the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD), the dominant student group in Dhaka University. BCL and JCD are the student wings of Sheikh Hasina Wajed's opposition Awami League and the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia respectively.

The 68-year-old university, a hot-bed of Bangladesh student politics, had been the scene of bloody violence from August, when many other schools were closed briefly to curb an escalation of lawlessness.

At least 11 students died and more than 200 activists were left injured during August and September in Dhaka and other towns. Thirty-four student activists, including a prominent JCD leader, were arrested and a large quantity of firearms seized in a raid on September 20 by the security agencies on six dormitories of Dhaka University in an attempt to rid the campus of arms. Submachine guns, rifles, pistols, grenades, home-made bombs, daggers and two radio sets were seized during the predawn swoop.

Police said cases have been filed against most of those arrested and investigations were continuing.

On Monday, the Manikganj Government College near Dhaka was shut indefinitely after clashes between rival student groups, press reports said Tuesday.

They also quoted Begum Zia as blaming the authorities for the campus violence, saying, "the illegal government in order to cling to power was instigating violence."

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has repeatedly called on the opposition leaders to disband their student wings to bring peace in the campus. Mr. Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 coup, dissolved the student wing of his ruling Jatiya Party in 1986.

4 Members of Shanti Bahini Group Surrender

BK0210160989 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Four members of the so-called Shanti Bahini [peace force] surrendered to the security forces at Khagrachari District Headquarters this morning. While surrendering, they said they were disappointed by the activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini, who were carrying out arson, looting, and killing in the [word indistinct] areas.

Greek Tanker Held for Bay of Bengal Oil Spill

BK0110084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Oct 1 (AFP)—A Greek oil tanker which has leaked thousands of gallons of crude oil into the Bay of Bengal will be detained in Bangladesh territorial waters pending the outcome of an inestigation, officials said.

The Department of Environmental Pollution Saturday [30 September] issued a directive to the Bangladesh Navy and other concerned authorities to ensure that the Greek-registered M.T. [expansion unknown] Filothe did not leave Bangladesh waters.

The department ordered K. Kefacoudies, skipper of the vessel Saturday, to "adopt measures within seven days for prevention, control and abatement of pollution of the environment," and said he could face prosecution if he failed, official sources said.

The ship carrying 92,185 long tons of crude oil reached outer anchorage off Chittagong, the country's largest port, on September 24 and started off-loading soon after, port authorities said. Mr. Kefacoudies claimed he had not noticed the leak until that day, BSS [Bangladesh news agency] reported.

Sources said traces of oil were visible 11 nautical miles from the vessel's anchorage and that at least 112 tons of oil, over 30,000 gallons, had been discharged into the Bay of Bengal. [words indistinct]

India

Gandhi Warns Against Disturbing 'Harmony'

BK0310135589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated the government's commitment to maintain peace and communal harmony. He said those who seek to disturb communal amity will be dealt with firmly. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said states have been asked to ensure that those fomenting communal violence are dealt with sternly. They have also been asked to provide relief quickly and assist those affected by the recent incidents of violence. In a message, the prime minister expressed deep sorrow over the

senseless communal violence in Badaun [in Uttar Pradesh] recently and conveyed his condolences to the families of those who were killed in the incidents there. He said these killings deserve the strongest condemnation of all.

The prime minister appealed to the people to work together to uphold the ideals that Mahatama Gandhi stood for. This is particularly at this juncture when religious passions are being fanned and the very basis of the nation's commitment to its secular ideals are being tested. [sentence as heard]

5 Killed, 7 Injured in 4 Oct Delhi Explosion

BK0410065489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] Five persons were killed and seven injured in an explosion in the Sadar Bazar area of north Delhi this morning. The dead include three children and a woman. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. Senior officials of the Delhi police have rushed to the spot. Further details are awaited.

Influence of Naxalites in Palamu District Grows

BK0310114789 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] Ranchi, Sept 22 (UNITED NEWS OF INDIA)—Naxalites have increased their mass base in feudal dominated Palamu District. Infiltrating into Palamu from across the thick jungles of northern border adjoining Hazaribagh and Aurangabad Districts, the extremist outfit has established mass base in at least 10 blocks, compared to 4 blocks adjoining the borders it had during the last year.

Confirming the growing influence of the Naxalites, deputy inspector general of police, Ramashraya Pandey, says Palamu provides the "ideal environment for Naxalism to flourish".

The topography has given the left wing militant group a fine cover to carry out their operation from jungles and sympathy of an oppressed mass facilitated their thriving.

At present, Palamu is the hot bed of Naxalism with the affluent farmers having formed an organisation, while Naxalites prepare to counter them with mass support. The organisation was formed by the erstwhile landlords recently following the growing influence of the Naxalites.

Naxalites have killed at least six people and snatched several firearms from landlords and police during the current year. With beefing up of security measures, which brought the Naxalites in direct confrontation with police, arms snatching and violence are on the wane, Mr Pandey claims.

However, a strategic shift has taken place with the Naxalites concentrating on mobilising the poor to fight for various issues.

Company To Export Control Valves to USSR

BK0210045689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] The public sector Instrumentation India Limited has bagged an export order worth 13 crore 60 lakh rupees for supply of control valves to the Soviet Union. The control valves are for use in the food processing industry.

Iran

Majlis Deputies' Letter to Shushtari on Cooper

NC0310130989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 15

[D. Montazeri report]

[Text] Tehran—A total of 110 Members of Parliament yesterday wrote a letter to Justice Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Shushtari and asked the minister for an explanation about the meeting of a family member of a spy with the head of the Judiciary.

The sister-in-law of jailed Briton Roger Cooper had visited Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Monday and presented a written application. Roger Cooper was arrested in 1985 on charges of spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran and now is serving prison term here in Iran.

Lily Cooper, wife of Roger Cooper's brother Paul is currently here and already saw her brother-in-law in jail.

Ayatollah Yazdi in the meeting with Lily denied foreign media reports that Roger Cooper had been sentenced to death by an Iranian court. The Judiciary head also told Lily that the leader of the Islamic Republic Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i can reduce the sentence, or pardon Roger Cooper.

Observers here believe that the authors of the letter want to object to Ayatollah Yazdi's granting an audience to a family of the spy.

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali and Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh were among the signatories of the letter which was handed over to Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi.

In a pre-agenda speech Qom Deputy Khalkhali said that "if we arrange a meeting of a spy family with the highest judicial authority, it is not suitable," referring to the meeting of Lily with Ayatollah Yazdi.

"True we follow the leader (of the Islamioc Republic)," Khalkhali said, adding that "it does not mean that we should not point out (issues). If a Majlis deputy points out certain issues to the leader then he should be not accused of (challenging the authorities)."

Ayatollah Yazdi talking to Lily on Monday said "as a human being I hope that Cooper will be pardoned as

soon as possible." He also said that "only the leader has the authority to lessen his sentence or pardon him."

Another Tehran Deputy Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "Ayatollah Yazdi behaved like a human being when he received Lily."

Another deputy critical of the meeting was Ebrahim Asgharzadeh from Tehran who questioned "why should we deal with the issue so simply, thinking that the meeting may change public opinion in Britain?.... This will be interpreted by them as a weak point on our part."

Asgharzadeh also attacked those favoring the resumption of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying this was unrealistic because Riyadh has always stood against the Islamic revolution since its victory in 1979.

Seminar Sessions on Afghanistan Issue Continue

Leaders Interviewed on Peace Talks

LD0310213589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the head of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance interim government, and Khalili, a member of the Afghan mujahidin eight-party coalition, gave an interview yesterday [in Tehran] on the sidelines of the second international conference on Afghanistan. They stressed that the Afghan mujahidin struggle will continue until they achieve their aims, and that they will not negotiate with the Afghanistan regime.

Mojaddedi, the head of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance government, said in the interview: We are not against a political solution to the Afghan issue. However, that solution must answer for the blood of 1.5 million martyrs and the misfortunes of 5-6 million Afghan refugees and homeless. While accepting the possibility of an international conference for the resolution of the Afghan issue, he rejected the possibility that Afghan mujahidin would participate in a conference which included representatives of the Afghan regime. He said: Our struggle will continue until the fall of the Afghan regime.

Khalili rejected an international conference on the Afghan issue in which a number of countries participate as interested countries. He said: We do not give any country the right as an interested country with regard to Afghanistan. We consider the suggestion of such a conference to be an insult to the Afghan nation. However, we are willing to attend a conference in which the Soviet Union—as a country which is engaged in the Afghan issue—as well as Iran and Pakistan, participate.

Participants Assess Issues

LD0310214889 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Zia'uddin Zia, an official of Shahid Afzali Jihad of Afghanistan who is participating in the 2nd international seminar on Afghanistan said here today that 80 per cent of Herat Province is under full control of the mujahideen.

In connection with a recent meeting between Peter Tomsen from the United States and ex-king Muhammad Zahir Shah, he said the returning of the ousted shah to Afghanistan is an impossibility since the social and political texture in that country will not allow such a development.

Commander of mujahidin troops in Baghlan Province Baz Mohammad who is also here for the seminar which started Monday, said that the mujahidin will continue their struggle against the Marxist regime in Kabul until its downfall.

Another participant Ghulam Muhammad Mas'um, a mujahidin military commander in Herat Province said that about 98 per cent of the province is under the control of the Muslim revolutionaries.

Sarvar Mojaddedi, a theological student from the Farah Province who is also a guest participant in the seminar said 99 per cent of Farah Province is now under the control of the mujahidin troops. He said there are now 16,000 mujahidin fighters in the province. Commenting on U.S. aid to the mujahidin he said if Washington intends to get a foothold in Afghanistan as a result of such help then the mujahidin will fight the U.S. as they fought the Soviets.

Muhammad Yunis Ghanuni representative of the commander of the Supervisory Council Ahmad Shah said that mujahidin have full or part control over 13 Afghan provinces. Soon Afghanistan will have an Islamic government, he added. He was not so confident about political solutions, and said if such solutions should happen to give people political power then fighting will not be necessary, but based on all past experience as long as the mujahidin do not demonstrate their military power proposed solutions to the situation in Afghanistan will not be practical.

In connection with sporadic rumours about the likelihood of Zahir Shah's return to the political scene, Ghanuni said that such rumours are fed by difference and division between certain ranks of the people. He added whatever those differences may be it is an obvious fact that Zahir Shah will never be able to ensure the national integrity in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Senator Khurshid Ahmad who is also attending the seminar was optimistic about the future of Afghanistan. He said under the circumstances an armed struggle as well as political negotiations can launch Afghanistan into its future course. He said he believes that the mujahidin should complement their armed struggle with political operations, and noted that the days of the ruling regime in Kabul were numbered.

Velayati Meets Rebel Leaders

LD0310220489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and Burhanuddin Rabbani, leaders of the seven-party Afghan alliance, based in Peshawar, met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati in separate meetings on Tuesday evening.

In the meetings, Velayati stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled stance with regards to the Afghan issue and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran remains by the side of the mujahidin and Muslim people of Afghanistan with all its resolve as before. And it has not changed its principled position with regard to Afghanistan in any way.

He declared that the future government of Afghanistan must be a broad government and added: Afghanistan's neighboring countries must help in that connection. Elsewhere in his remarks, our country's foreign minsiter said: We have always said that, without the opinion of the mujahidin, a solution for the Afghan issue is inconceivable and the Islamic Republic of Iran wants an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan.

In his meeting with Velayati, Sebghatulah Mojaddedi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown with words and deeds that it wishes the Afghan nation well.

Seminar Continues Work

LD0410024389 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—The 2nd international seminar on Afghanistan continued work here Tuesday morning with several speakers calling on all Afghan mujahidin groups to unite.

A Pakistani University professor, Mrs Abdeh Hussain addressing the session said that the aftermath of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan indicated that no factor other than unity of the forces could bring final victory for the Afghans.

Meanwhile several religious personalities and politicians in the Monday afternoon session of the conference called for non-intervention of foreign powers in internal affairs of Afghanistan and urged recognition of the right for self-determination of the Afghans.

The seminar, sponsored by Foreign Ministry, opened here Monday morning with a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Addressing the session Mawlawi Hashem Lolahnji [name as received] of the Iran-based eight-party alliance, referring to the struggle of Afghan people said that retreat of Western Europe from Afghanistan's political scene was due to presence of the United States in the country.

Dr. Sadeq Rahim of Pakistan was another speaker who pointed out that military occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet forces was a fragrant violation of international principles, of the sovereignty of an independent country, and of human rights.

Referring to the 1988 Geneva Convention on Afghanistan, Sadeq Rahim said that such resolutions were mere slogans with no guarantee.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, leader of Islamic revolution movement of Afghanistan, stressed that the only way for Afghans to get rid of imperialism was adherence to Islam. He noted that an Islamic government was the key to all problems of Afghan people.

Professor Felix Emracora, special envoy of the U.N. Human Rights Committee, presented a report to the seminar on human rights condition in Afghanistan and on Afghan refugee camps outside the country.

Referring to his recent visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Emracora said that bombardment of villages, massacre of children and women, spread of terror, arrests and political executions were still continuing in Afghanistan.

Another speaker, Khurshid Ahmad of Pakistan who is a member of the Islamic Jamiyat party, told the gathering to support the holy jihad in Afghanistan. He ruled out negotiations with the Kabul regime under the present circumstances.

Leader of Pakistan's Shiite Muslims, Seyyed Sajid Naqavi, reiterated that his country had neither interfered in internal affairs of Afghanistan nor misused economic and political bottlenecks there.

President of the Afghan Interim Government Sebghatullah Mojadeddi is presiding over the three-day seminar in which a group of Afghan personalities as well as religious and political figures of the region are participating.

Speakers on Superpowers' Motives

LD0410024789 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—The international seminar on Afghanistan entered its second day Tuesday, with several speakers warning against the superpowers' efforts to prevent an Islamic government from coming to power in Kabul.

Mawlawi Mo'azzen of the Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan said the superpowers were doing all within their power to prevent the establishment of Islamic governments in Muslim states.

The Peshawar based leader said although the U.S. was satisfied with the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, it was against the coming to power of an Islamic government in Kabul.

Qazi Amin Waqqad [name as received] of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, also based in Pakistan, told the

audience that no system of government except an Islamic one could be acceptable to the Afghan Muslim people. He said the Muslim people of Afghanistan after their marathon struggle against a superpower would never allow anybody to take Islam away from their social and political life.

Mujahidin Leader Interviewed

NC2909202089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Sep 89 p 11

[Text] Afghanistan's problems have currently taken on a complicated and vague nature and are being studied as a serious issue. It was thought that after the withdrawal of the Russians, the problems faced by the mujahidin would decrease. Unfortunately, however, the mujahidin are still encountering a great many problems. The root of these problems does not lie within Afghanistan but in the uncalled for interventions by the superpowers who were the reason for the emergence of this crisis.

Our correspondent interviewed Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Nateqi, political official in charge of the Afghan Islamic Coalition, and asked him to state his views on the holy war of the Afghan nation.

Mr Nateqi referred to world reactions to the Afghan crisis and the discussions that arose during the ninth nonaligned summit in Belgrade. He stated: So long as the Russians continue their economic and arms assistance to the puppet regime in Kabul, the flame of the war will never be extinguished. The Americans also have created problems and headaches and want to exploit to the maximum the Afghan crisis and the needs and problems of the mujahidin. So long as the Americans and the Russians continue in this way, the crisis definitely will not be solved. This is the very point that the UN secretary general referred to at the Belgrade conference. He said so long as the superpowers' intervention in Afghanistan's affairs continues, the Afghan crisis cannot be solved. This crisis can be solved if this intervention is stopped. We expected the nonaligned conference which was attended by more than 100 countries to help us to solve the Afghan crisis. We also sent a message to them. Regrettably, however, not only did the conference fail to do so, but it extended an invitation to Najibullah who is the main element in this crisis. Undoubtedly, this upset our Muslim nation.

Mr Nateqi was asked: There has recently been talk about Zahir Shah and his role in the future of Afghanistan as the head of a coalition government, and a U.S. representative in Rome held discussions with him. In your opinion, how serious a role can Zahir Shah play in the future of Afghanistan?

He answered: There is no doubt that Zahir Shah is a pawn of the arrogant, and his despotic rule in Afghanistan, in our opinion, was one of the worst in the region during the 40 years of monarchy. Zahir Shah turned Afghanistan into the most backward country in Asia, at a time when all the neighboring countries were going through a phase of cultural and economic development. Another point in relation to this is the fact that political parties in Afghanistan operated under the supervision of his monarchy and it was only the Islamic groups that were not granted the right to function. Zahir Shah martyred a large number of Muslim leaders,and Islamic movements were severely suppressed by him. In our opinion,Zahir Shah is a most infamous person, like his uncle Da'ud Khan. Therefore, what is of significance now is Islamic resistance and Islamic parties in Afghanistan. The essence of jihad and resistance against the occupying Russian forces was Islam and the divine teachings of Islam. The concern that the superpowers feel relating to Afghanistan's future also derives only from Islam and the establishment of Islamic rule in the country, because both superpowers have a common view on negating Islam and destroying Islamic resistance. Zahir Shah, too, with his wretched past, is the best pawn for the superpowers. This is why the mass media present him as the savior of Afghanistan and allege that with the presence of the former king the Afghan crisis will be solved.

Mr Nateqi continued: We explicitly declare that Zahir Shah will never be able to solve the Afghan problem and that the situation, conditions, and face of Afghan society have completely changed. Therefore, we should take the black history of his rule into consideration and not consider him to be the savior of Afghanistan. He pointed out that America has no right to appoint a guardian for us and Zahir Shah has no place in the jihad and resistance of the Afghan nation.

Asked about the opinion of the Islamic Alliance on the future rule of Afghanistan and about what plans have been made for solving political relations with the Pakistan-based seven-party alliance, Mr Nateqi answered: The future system of government is something that should be determined by the people themselves; this is the right of the people. We have said that the future system of government in Afghanistan can certainly be an Islamic one, because 99 percent of the Afghans are Muslims and the Marxist parties in Afghanistan have definitely been eliminated. The Western-style systems which existed in Afghanistan previously have also proven to be ineffective and incompetent. This time it is the turn of Islam. The people made their sacrifices and endured hardships for the sake of Islam. Therefore, we have stated that we are seeking an Islamic system of government only and that we cannot accept any idea but Islam.

On the solution of political problems among the mujahidin groups, he said: Many of these differences can be laid at the door of our friends in the seven-party alliance, and our common enemy has exploited this situation to the utmost. The fact that we were not present at the consultative council, and the regrettable violation of the agreement by our brothers, have had a negative impact inside Afghanistan.

Continuing on the same topic, he said: We did not want much from the seven-party alliance. We had asked for the presence of 100 members from the Islamic Alliance Council in the consultative council and seven ministerial positions, which would have been temporary. We do not think that this was too much to ask for. Our brothers, however, violated the agreement and formed the interim government without our participation. From the very outset it was obvious that the interim government could not replace the Kabul government, and today it is weaker than ever. In view of the fact that Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, has also postponed his membership, and in view of certain other issues, the path is now open. If our friends have the least bit of decency they can, until elections are held, come to good and useful agreements with us on various issues. It should be taken into consideration that some prejudiced elements are not prepared to solve the problem in any way; otherwise, we do not have problems that cannot be solved.

Dailies Comment on Seminar

LD0210104789 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—Two morning dailies Monday expressed the hope that the international seminar on Afghanistan will present a clear image of the situation of the Afghan society.

The seminar sponsored by the Foreign Ministry opened here Monday with a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. It is attended by ranking Iranian officials, leaders of Afghan mujahidin groups, delegations from Pakistan, Indochina, representative of the United Nations Ermacora and experts from several European countries.

The daily ABRAR said the success in forming the future government and protecting national unity in Afghanistan depends on an understanding which could be achieved when the Afghan mujahidin are able to consider the rights of the Muslim nation far from the domination of the U.S. and its allies.

The daily warned that war of power between the Afghan groups would not only thwart the 10-year resistance against occupiers but would pave the way for U.S. intervention which would ultimately postpone solving the Afghan crisis.

Although the seminar is not supposed to present a specific solution to the Afghan crisis, presence of most Afghan groups and representatives from the neighbouring countries enables the seminar to bring closer the views of all concerned parties to form an understanding for preserving the national interests of Afghanistan.

Commenting on the same subject JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial called on the Islamic world to feel more responsibility and obligation towards Afghanistan and its critical political situation The signs are that foreign military aggression is now replaced with an invisible political presence, the daily said in reference to the existing conspiracies to weaken the Afghan people and Islamic groups.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI warned that enemies of the Islamic movement of Afghan people are determined to sow discord among Afghan mujahideen and reach their ominious political objectives. Although the aggressors have now left Afghanistan, their policies still remain in that country.

All conspiracies carried out in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of occupiers are directed against the Muslim people and aim at preventing spread of Islamic values in that country, stressed the editorial. In order to encounter these plots there is a need for greater political awareness of the Afghan nation, concluded the daily.

Paper Calls for Muslim Unity

LD0310163689 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Afghanistan is part of the Muslim world and it can be only a Muslim state whatever the political pressure on it, said the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Tuesday.

The daily's editorial noted that all Iranian, Afghan and other speakers in the first day of the ongoing international seminar on Afghanistan here Monday reiterated the need for an all-out effort to create an Islamic unity among the Afghan people and political groups and parties.

The present political condition in Afghanistan, after termination of foreign military intervention, has created the situation that the enemies of the Islamic movement of Afghanistan appear in the political scene of the country in various forms in a bid to make the Islamic movement without content, it said. The Persian daily voiced the conviction that the faces of the enemies will be recognized if all individuals of the Islamic society of Afghanistan stick together, preserve their brotherhood and avoid any move directed towards discord. "Determination of the fate of Afghanistan is not a matter limited within the power of one individual or one political group," it argued.

"All individuals of the Afghan nation have shared difficulties, the bitterness as well as sweetness of their Islamic struggle.

"Today, all combatant Afghan groups are aware that the dominant-seeking powers of the West and the East have reached agreements on the imposition of a political condition on Afghanistan compatible with their own (foreign powers) interests.

In such conditions, the task of the people and leaders of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan becomes difficult," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

It urged all Afghan combatant forces to set aside their fighting, power-seeking, secretarianism and political alignments among their ranks and said "such things are calamities which not only seriously threatens the movement from inside but are also considered as plagues to all liberation movements throughout the world." The editorial, in conclusion, called on all Afghan Muslims and political groups as well as all Islamic countries to join hands and save Afghanistan from "the ploys and filthy claws of intriguing powers."

Khamene'i Meets With Foreign Officials

LD0310182789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in separate meetings held this morning, met leaders of several parties and religious-political groups from Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq. In his meetings he presented his audience with necessary guidelines in connection with the general issues of the Islamic world.

Mr Velayati, the foreign minister, first pointed to the convention of the second international seminar on Afghanistan in Tehran. He further emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand firm beside the struggling Muslim Afghan brothers with all its might. Then Sebgatullah Mojaddedi head of the interim government of the seven-party alliance of Afghanistan and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq, the spokesman of the eight-party Afghan mujahidin in Iran, pointed to U.S. efforts aimed at the prevention of the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. They also pointed to the necessity of unity and solidarity among the struggling and Muslim nation and Afghanistan. They further stressed that the interests of Islam, Afghanistan, Iran, and the Islamic ummah are more important than anything else. They further expressed their readiness to achieve further solidarity among the ranks of Muslim Afghan mujahidin.

Shaykh (Kaftaru), the great mufti of Syria, in his meeting with the leader of the Islamic revolution, pointed to the extensive progress made by Islam in all world societies. He further stressed the necessity of holding joint sessions among Islam's 'ulema in order to hold consultations about Islamic issues and Muslim affairs.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement of Lebanon, also met the leader of the Islamic revolution. Shaykh Sa'id termed Iran as the center for dissemination of Islam and its castle. He further praised the supreme position of his holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, while pointing to the efforts of global arrogance aimed at establishing a tribal system of government in Lebanon. He said: The tripartite conference in al-Ta'if is also pursuing the same objective. However, the Islamic unity among the resistance forces will guarantee the victory for the Muslim people of Lebanon [illegible] ory for the Muslim people of Lebanon.

Ahmad Jibril, general commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu Musa, leader of the Revolutionary Fatah Movement of Palestine, also met Ayatollah Khamene'i. They described the efforts of global arrogance and regional reactionaries aimed at halting the Islamic movement of the Palestinian nation. They considered the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggling and Muslim nation of Palestine in confrontation against the regime occupying Jerusalem to be highly effective.

Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, member of the leadership council of Lebanese Hizballah, in his meeting with the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran pointed to the role of enemies of Islam in strengthening the Maronite political regime in Lebanon, while expressing his strong opposition to regional reactionaries and their conspiracies.

Walid Junblatt, minister of transport and tourism and leader of Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, and Nabih Birri, minister of justice and energy, and head of the Lebanese Amal Movement, also held separate meetings with the leader of the Islamic world. They pointed to the worry caused for global arrogance by the unity created among the Islamic and national groupings. They further considered the Iraqi regime as the agent implementing the conspiracy of global arrogance in Lebanon.

Hojjat-ol Eslam Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq, in his meeting with the leader of the Islamic revolution, presented him with a report about the activities of the assembly. His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the world's Muslims, considered the Afghanistan issue as an Islamic matter, directly related to the fate of the the Islamic world and to the future of Islam in the international context. He added: Today, the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan is moving toward ultimate victory, and the Islamic jihad of the great nation of Afghanistan is the only factor for victory. The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed to the efforts of the enemies of Islam and those of the global arrogance aimed at widening the scope of differences in Afghanistan. He then set out to describe the shared notions among the Shiite and Sunni Muslims within the Islamic principles. He graciously added: It is only through unity among Islamic groups and forces that Afghanistan may attain victory and achieve results. Today, the basic problem is that of differences, while the general objective should be unity. Unity and solidarity among the Muslim Afghan mujahidin is not merely a tactic or a strategy; it is an Islamic principle.

Referring to the Palestinian issue, our country's leader said: We consider ourselves as partners in the course of struggle for liberation of Palestine. We are ready to utilize our resources for jihad and practical acts against the Zionist regime. Those who are living a healthy life under oppression are not Palestinians [as heard], and the supporters of the regime occupying Jerusalem are now seeing a dark horizon before them due to the continuous and profound jihad of the Palestinian nation. We consider the resistance of the Palestinians as the only way to

achieve victory. The world of Islam feels strong and powerful through that resistance.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to Lebanon being an Islamic country. He further emphasized the necessity of ousting the Maronites from the ruling positions in that country. He graciously said: Global arrogance continues its conspiracies aimed at separating Lebanon from Islam. However, one must resist this unacceptable wish of arrogance, because a kind of stability in a Lebanon with no Islam has no validity for the Lebanese people or the Muslims throughout the world. The leader of the world's Muslims further stressed the resolute support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the oppressed nation of Lebanon. He graciously added: Islam orders us to aid the oppressed and stand up against the oppressor. Today we stand alongside the oppressed people of Lebanon, and what is certain is that the oppressor will suffer heavy blows.

It is worthy to mention that in the meetings held between the leaders and commanders of Afghan mujahidin with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in addition to Sebgatullah Mojaddedi, leader of the interim government of the seven-party alliance of Afghanistan, members of councils of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan and the eight-party alliance in Iran, a group of commanders of Afghan mujahidin inside that country, as well as Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mawlawi Mansur, Qazi Amin, and Mawlawi Mo'azzen, were present.

Commentary on Lebanese Parliamentary Talks

LD0210152189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1054 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Station commentary: "The Continuation of the Lebanese Parliament's Negotiations in al-Ta'if"]

[Text] According to reports, the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon has been the subject of one of the most sensational debates among that country's parliamentary deputies, meeting in al-Ta'if. According to the Arab community's proposed plan, the 63 deputies of Lebanon's National Consultative Assembly, who began their extraordinary session in Saudi Arabia on 30 September, should have been discussing political reforms in that country, such as diminishing the power of the Maronite president, the abrogation of sectarianism in the lower ranks, and new general elections. This plan predicts that if these are implemented the Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon will be redeployed in the next 2 years.

Even though this plan has the support of moderate factions following Muslim and Christian deputies, nevertheless, its implementation would spell a great defeat for Michel 'Awn, as he has constantly reiterated that no political reforms or the election of a president and formation of a new parliament would be possible before the departure of Syrian troops.

Although Michel 'Awn's agreement on holding the Lebanese parliament's negotiations constitutes a deviation from his initial goals, 24 right-wing deputies in Beirut had previously called for the implementation of political reforms simultaneous with the withdrawal of Syrian troops. Meanwhile, some close observers of the al-Ta'if session believe that the political differences between Syria and Iraq in the region, reflected to date in the Baghdad regime's military assistance to Michel 'Awn, have also appeared in the present Lebanese parliamentary session. In any case, it seems likely that the differences among the deputies go much deeper.

It is clear that the deputies in al-Ta'if have not come to that city sharing a common viewpoint on the Arab community's proposed plan. The right-wing deputies favor an unconditional discussion on the withdrawal of the Syrian troops, undiminished power for the president, and the maintenance of a tribal system among the country's top-level decisionmakers. The progressive deputies, however, who include a number of Christian and Muslim deputies, favor discussions on political reforms and the total abrogation of tribalism. A number of moderates, meanwhile, are trying to reconcile the two factions' viewpoints.

Moreover, foreign pressure aimed at directing the course of the Lebanese parliament's activities continues. It has been said that the U.S. first secretary at that country's embassy in Beirut has secretly come to al-Ta'if to closely observe the negotiations. The pope in his most recent message called on the world's Christian community to take part in prayers for Lebanon on 4 October. He had previously asked the Muslims to go to the aid of the Christians to save Lebanon from certain collapse. Experts believe that the pope's recent messages and the active part he has taken in the Lebanese political scene are indicative of his support for the right-wing Christians at a time when Michel 'Awn's 6-month war has served to greatly weaken this group. The pope's support for Michel 'Awn's government after the Vatican ambassador submitted his credentials to Lebanon's unlawful prime minister was condemned by Salim al-Huss, head of the legitimate government.

Regardless of the trend of the negotiations, or foreign pressure, many believe that the failure of the al-Ta'if session will open a new door to partitioning in Lebanon and a much more frightening war. Therefore, bearing in mind that the existing conditions in the region and international support for the Arab community's political activities do not prevent a resumption of clashes, it is expected that the Lebanese parliament's deputies should at least try to attain general principles to save the al-Ta'if session from failure. [sentence as heard]

Nurbakhsh Interviewed on Return From Washington

NC3009080489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Interview with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister for economic affairs and finance, upon his return from Washington by correspondent Reza'i of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 30 September—recorded]

[Text] [Reza'i] Dr Nurbakhsh, you attended the IMF and World Bank session. Please tell us about the outcome of this trip.

[Nurbakhsh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Briefly, the talks and meetings covered three areas. First, we participated in the annual session of the IMF and the World Bank itself and Iran offered its views at this session in the form of a speech. Second, we met with the chiefs of the IMF and the World Bank. Third, we also held meetings with the ministers of economic affairs and finance, as well as officials of the international departments of these two organizations.

An important point regarding this session must be noted. As you are aware, the Group of 24 is comprised of developing countries and of Latin American, Asian, and African countries. This session was held at the level of first deputy, but in the next session in a few months, Iran will participate as head of the Group of 24 in a more active capacity. It will then be able to project the viewpoint of developing countries on issues pertaining to the IMF and the World Bank and on international financial problems and the topic of economic expansion.

Embassy in Ankara Refutes Anti-Turkish Charges

LD3009173389 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Ankara, Sept. 30, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here today refuted reports on anti-Turkish activities on the Iranian soil. Stressing on the firm relations between the two neighbouring countries the embassy termed reports in today's issue of the Istanbul-based daily HURRIYET as "fabrications" and said such reports cannot harm "the friendly relations between Iran and Turkey which date back to several centuries ago."

The daily today charged that members of the outlawed Kurdish workers of Turkey are under military training in a camp in the northwestern province of Azarbayjan in Iran.

"The people of the two countries relying on their firm relations will not allow any activities on each others' soil which are against the two neighbours' interests," said the embassy in a press release today. The embassy also issued a statement earlier denying reports by some Turkish press on the activities of the opposition Kurds in Iran. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has never been and will not be a place for anti-Turkish activities," it stressed.

Economic Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

NC0110092789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] With the signing of a $150 million agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bulgaria, more than 60 uncompleted projects will be reactivated and become operational. Mr Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister for heavy industries, who went to Bulgaria at the head of an economic delegation, returned to Tehran yesterday.

The minister said: On the basis of the agreement, machinery, tools, accessories, and equipment worth $100 million will be purchased from Bulgaria, of which $50 million will be paid for with oil exports and the remainder over a period of 4 years. Regarding the Iranian exports to Bulgaria worth $50 million which are part of the agreement between the two countries, he said: The two sides agreed that the Islamic Republic of Iran should export 8,000 Renault automobiles, 400 minibuses, 400 ambulances, 100 railway passenger cars, 20 wagons for transporting gas, 5,000 wheels for rolling stock and railroad tracks, as well as 5,000 components for foundries.

The heavy industries minister then commented on the joint project for manufacturing buses: It has been decided that this project should utilize the facilities on both sides to manufacture various parts of the buses. Once this project becomes operational, it will not only meet the needs of the two countries but will also facilitate exports to other countries.

This report adds that exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria during the past year was $500 million and the Iranian Ministry of Heavy Industries' exports to Bulgaria over the same period were worth $2.1 million, which will increase by $50 million under the new agreement.

During its 3-day stay in Sofia the Iranian delegation met the president, prime minister, and speaker of the Bulgarian parliament.

Official Urges Active FRG Role in Reconstruction

NC2909142989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Tehran—Iran has called on West Germany to have active participation in Iran's post-war reconstruction phase.

Seyyed Ahmad Mortazavi, director general of Foreign Investment Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Financial Affairs in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES elaborated on the promotion of Iran-West Germany cooperation in different fields.

Mortazavi said West Germany being the first economic and trade partner for Iran enoys favorable grounds to upgrade mutual cooperation. This cooperation, he added, could be expanded in different fields such as agricultural, industrial and construction of power plants.

However, due to the inconsistency in the policies of the West Germany, these relations have seen various ups and downs. If it will not adopt reliable calculated policies, there will be no bright prospects for the expansion and continuation of the bilateral relations.

Elsewhere Mortazavi said at this stage when Islamic Republic is going to reconstruct its economy according

to a five-year plan to be approved within few months, naturally grounds will be laid for long-run cooperation with other countries as well.

Mortazavi concluded by saying it is hoped that West Germany taking into account its old traditional, cultural and economic relations with Iran established years ago will be able to win a suitable place in the Islamic Republic's eyes at this juncture.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Relations With France

NC0210135289 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 20 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] After the visit to Iran by Mr Francois Scheer, first deputy foreign minister of France and the French representative on the committee for resolving the Iranian-France financial differences, our correspondent met with Mr Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, and talked with him. During this discussion Mr Va'ezi answered our correspondent's questions on the expansion of relations between the two countries, financial differences, and the outcome of the visit by the first deputy foreign minister of France.

Asked about the reasons for and results of the French deputy foreign minister's visit to Iran, he said: After 10 years' disagreement between our two countries over finances, French Foreign Minister Mr Dumas sent a message to Mr Velayati asking him to resume talks to smooth out these differences and introduce Mr Francois Scheer as the representative of the French Government. I was chosen to represent the Iranian side. Referring to Mr Francois Scheer's visit to Iran, he said: In addition to political talks, he also held discussions on economic issues and the financial problems between the two countries during his stay in Tehran. The two sides decided to use political avenues and remove the obstacles preventing the improved relations between the two countries as soon as possible, and they decided to approach the problems positively.

Va'ezi added: We announced that failure to repay Iran's loan to France before the revolution would be a serious obstacle in the two countries' relations. They too announced that some French companies are facing some problems with our Atomic Energy Agency, which should be resolved. It was then agreed to hold monthly meetings in Tehran and in Paris in order to solve differences as soon as possible. He pointed out that during Scheer's visit to Tehran, general issues were discussed. There was complete understanding between the two sides on these, too.

Asked when the two countries' financial differences will be decisively resolved and what amount should be paid by both sides, Mr Va'ezi said:

In our decisions we have set a 6-month deadline during which we should carry out serious steps to solve differences. As for the amount that the two sides should pay, this cannot be determined now. Asked to explain this, he said: We extended a $1 billion loan to France during the era of the corrupt regime. Until now, only two instalments have been repaid (about $630 million). Naturally, 10 years of interest have been added to this loan. As for their side, they have some claims concerning a couple of projects that they were implementing in Iran. All these should be considered in reaching a solution.

Asked about the level of Mr Scheer's visit to Iran and Resolution 598 and the Lebanese crisis was discussed, Mr Va'ezi said: He is second in rank at the French Foreign Ministry and the French Government's special envoy on the two countries' differences. We also had talks on Lebanon and on Resolution 598. We stated our position on Lebanon and announced that the Lebanese people should determine their own fate.

On Resolution 598 he said: Because France is a permanent member of the Security Council, we discussed Iraq's obstructionism and its pretexts, and stated that we agree with the secretary general's four-point plan as well as with the recent two-point plan. In answer, Mr Scheer stated: We believe Resolution 598 should be immediately and fully implemented, and we fully support the secretary general's efforts.

In answer to the last question by our correspondent on the expansion of relations between the two countries, Mr Va'ezi said: There are extensive fields for cooperation between Iran and France. However, these relations can be expanded if we conclude that France wants healthy and stable relations with us. We do not discount the problems between our two countries during the past few years, and if past bitterness and experiences must be used in order to create healthy relations, we welcome and support this.

He said: We should wait to see the goodwill of France in action so that we can then announce our serious decision.

On the expansion of relations between the two countries he said: We can have good cooperation with France in bilateral political issues, in economy and especially in the field of reconstruction and the implementation of large problems, and in regional and international issues. First, however, the dark clouds that have cast their shadow over our two countries' relations should be removed so that a healthy atmosphere for cooperation can be created.

Editorial Views Improved Relations With France

NC2909214089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Sep 89 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "France and Past Lessons"]

[Excerpts] Francois Scheer, director general of the French Foreign Ministry, is to arrive in Tehran next week to discuss the financial problems between Iran and France related to a $1-billion loan to EURODIF.

The trip to Tehran at the present juncture may have a special meaning; and in order to find out what this is, we

should briefly glance at the record of relations between the two countries in the past. [passage omitted]

Paris now wants to remove any obstacles in the way of improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. If this desire is coupled with goodwill, then naturally it will not be difficult to achieve.

In view of past French behavior, particularly last year, it seems that the biggest problem was lack of trust in the statements and acts of the Paris government. This has rendered France's remarks, even its good-will remarks, untrustworthy.

Past experience has taught us that the French cannot always be trusted. Naturally, the question arises is: How can we rely on their statements and their commitments? This is a big problem. The French should give favorable and trustworthy answers so that their proposals and wishes for improving relations and, possibly, for participating in reconstruction can be studied.

The only thing that France gained from all its hostility and spite against Iran was that it all backfired. This is an experience which the other Western countries have also had, each in its own way. But the question remains: Are the French ready to learn from the lessons of the past, and on what basis do they want to establish their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran?

During recent months Washington and the propaganda machinery of the arrogant have tried to propound the "existence of a moderate group" in Iran which, according to the West, is gradually gaining power. They have tried to show that in the "post-imam Iran" everything will allegedly be to the benefit of the West. This was a big mistake, and it proved that Washington's calculations were also wrong. And we saw how they have now fully realized that no one will step outside the framework of the everlasting policies of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. [passage omitted]

If France acts rationally, without adopting a spiteful approach, then it can have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In view of past incidents and the existence of a feeling of distrust of the behavior of the French, however, there is a long way to go until that point is reached, and this is the major problem that the French are facing in regulating their relations with the Islamic Republic.

France should understand that it can have good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the condition that it does not imitate others in its approach to the Islamic revolution. There is no reason why the French should link their interests in this to U.S. and British interests, and obey them. It is disgraceful for France, with its history, to receive orders from the Americans and the British on the Islamic revolution. This is the very point that the Paris government should take into consideration and exert efforts, efforts that may be successful, to free itself from the situation it is in.

Editorial Assails Italy's Position, Actions

NC0310131489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Stance & Actions of Italy Far From Expectations?!!"]

[Text] A great deal has come to light and appeared openly in the world news media and in Iran on a financial deal between Iraq and Italy relating to the supply by the latter country of lethal chemical arms to the Baghdad regime. Italy has still to answer many questions and the answers have been promised. But before that it will be worth recounting the full story briefly in order to get things in perspective.

Iraq was recently in the center of what is said to be a banking scandal stretching from Baghdad, through Rome and European capitals and extending to the U.S. State of Georgia. It begins around August of this year when Italy's Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro through its Atlanta, Georgia branch furnished a credit line of nearly $2 billion to Iraq.

When questions arose on the legality of the deal, the officials of the bank insisted that the matter had to be looked on as a financial fraud at the U.S. end and hence the responsibility of the Georgia bank.

In the light of new information and statements by other political parties in Italy, it would seem that it was more than a financial scandal. The Georgia bank manager, Neriozi, who was fired has said that the credit was issued only on the strength of firm international agreements. A strong statement of the Iraqi regime's embassy in Rome also lends credence to this view.

The Iraqi Italian Embassy statement said the bank credit in the first place was based strictly on bank regulations, was fully legal and explained that the agreements were entered into between Italy and Iraq as far back as 1982.

Secondly, it said that of the $2.6 billion agreed in credit, only $1.7, or two thirds of the total, has been paid to Iraq and the rest still due.

Thirdly, it said that if the balance of the $920 [as published] due to Iraq was not paid Iraq would refuse to pay interest on the amounts lent earlier.

Apart from such confirmed news, there are several other aspects to the issues involved that need solution and careful examination by the Italian officials in charge of foreign affairs. Adding to the Italian befuddlement is the recent suicide of an Italian colonel in Iraq and the silence of Italian officials over this and a request by an Italian court to the Federal Bureau of Investigations in the United States to control the flow of information on this particular issue. Moreover, the symbolic gesture of the Venice judge calling on foreign and defense ministries personnel to face charges in court for possible involvement in the military activities of Iraq, including the

supply of the long-range Condor II missile capable of carrying chemical, or nuclear warheads weighting as much as 500 kgms.

Now what Iran would like to know is:
(a) Whether Italy was truly neutral during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war as it claims.
(b) What justification Italy has on the supply of financial aid and military cooperation with the Iraqi regime during a sensitive juncture in the war, when it proclaimed that it would help neither side in order to keep down tensions.

When Iranian officials met Italian officials during the 15th International Trade Fair, currently on here, according to informed sources, Iran complained of the hypocritical nature of the deals to the Italians and said that it could seriously jeopardize future relations between the two countries. Now the Italian Deputy Minister of Trade Alberto Rossi has promised to inform the concerned officials on his return to Italy and pursue the issue vigorously in Rome and provide convincing answers. Iran awaits the answers expectantly.

Khamene'i Receives Europe Islamic Student Group

LD0310180189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] A group consisting of members of the alliance of student's Islamic societies in Europe were received this morning by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. They presented a report to his eminence about the activities and services of the alliance.

In the meeting, our country's leader gave them the necessary guidance and described Iran's Muslim and revolutionary students abroad as the reserves of Islam and of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed the importance of equipping themselves with the various sciences of the present day and reinforcing their various talents.

UN Security Council Extends UNIIMOG Mission

LD3009090189 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] United Nations, Sept. 30, IRNA—The U.N. Security Council here Friday night in a unanimous vote extended mission of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) for another six months. All 15 members of the council appealed to both Iran and Iraq to speed up full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 for ending Iraq-Iran war.

The council also pledged full support for efforts of U.N. Security Council Javier Perez de Cuellar for establishment of peace beween Iran and Iraq.

The council also called on Perez de Cuellar to present the report on the activities of the UNIIMOG for the next six months to the United Nations.

The session was attended by the newly appointed Iran's permanent representative to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi. The Iraqi representative was also present in the session.

UNIIMOG forces were stationed on Iran-Iraq border after the U.N. sponsored cease-fire went into effect on August 1988.

Nazaran, Besharati Comment on POW's Release

LD0410023489 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Head of the committee in charge of Iraqi POWS in Iran Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran said here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to exchange POWS within the framework of the U.N. Resolution 598 and in keeping with the U.N. secretary general's four-point plan.

In a report submitted to the ninth gathering of the heads of Iraqi POWS camps, Nazaran criticized the Iraqi regime for its refusal to give a list of the names of disabled Iranian war prisoners.

The three-day meeting started here Tuesday to review the function of the committee and also examine the state of the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, exchange of POWS and determine future strategies.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has given the names of all disabled Iraqi POWS to the Red Cross, said the official. As the Iraqi regime has not reciprocated Iranian act of releasing disabled POWS, the unilateral release of POWS by Iran has also been stopped, Nazaran told to the meeting.

On providing the camps with facilities, he said committees for education, work, health and literacy campaign have been set up and camps' libraries have been equipped with more than 70,000 volumes of books.

The meeting was also addressed by the foreign minister's advisor Mohammad Javad Besharati who said "with strengthening its military power, Iran must strongly answer back any (military) atrocity by the enemy along its borders.

"In this way the enemy is compelled to choose either war or ultimate peace and will no more resort to the present condition of neither-war-nor-peace in a bid to continue its atrocities," asserted Besharati.

Kurdish Group Responsible for Baghdad Attack

NC3009122489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A Kurdish organization opposed to the Iraqi regime claimed responsiblity for the attack on the British Club in Baghdad. According to IRNA, the United Organization of

the Halabjah Martyrs issued a statement in Sidon in southern Lebanon that it had thrown some bombs at the British Club, a center of anti-Islamic espionage, as a response to the massacre by Saddam Husayn in Halabjah. Earlier, TANJUG reported that eight Yugoslavians had been injured in the attack. However, Iraqi authorities remained silent about the incident.

Kuwaiti Planning Minister Comments on Visit

LD0110111489 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Kuwaiti Minister of Planning and acting Minister of Public Health 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi was seen off Saturday night by his Iranian counterpart, Dr. Iraj Fazel.

Interviewed by IRNA before departure, he said he was quite impressed with the report presented at the WHO session on progress in health and related fields of regional countries specially that of Iran.

Al-'Awadi was here to attend the 36th meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Organisation (EMRO) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) which opened here Saturday. During his stay in Iran he met and conferred with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other ranking officials.

Delegations from 16 regional countries including 12 health ministers are attending the five-day EMRO meeting.

Saudi Faction Seeks To Aggravate Tension

NC2909142689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Riyadh Propaganda Against Iran"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry announced that 16 people have been beheaded on charges of bombing in Mecca. The same announcement added that four others have been sentenced from 15 to 20 years in jail while 15 other convicts have been released.

The Saudi Arabian Interior Ministry announced that 14 of the executed were Kuwaitis and two were Saudis.

Following a suspicious bomb explosion in July in Mecca which led to the death of one Pakistani and injuring of 16 others, the Saudi government needed a series of actions in order to show its power in the world of Islam so that it could show its ability to preserve the peace and security during the Hajj ceremonies.

The Saudis are severely terrified of anything that puts under question their guardianship of the sacred places, especially "revolutionary Islam", which during the past decade has been in severe contradiction with the reactionary viewpoints of the Riyadh leaders.

But the announcement of cruel and quick execution of the 16 people on charges of bombing under the conditions of the present time is imbued with special political meaning. Announcement that the 16 executed ones were Shias or that 10 of them had Iranian origin and in short the propaganda effort for relating this issue to Iran shows this reality: that Riyadh wants the existing tensions with the Islamic Republic of Iran to become aggravated. Some of the political observers believe that the faction of Prince Sultan, the minister of defense, and Nayif, the interior minister, brought about this tragedy on the eve of holding of the conference of the heads of the six countries of the Persian Gulf which was supposed to be held in certain countries such as Oman, and the United Arab Emirates to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia, to neutralize the efforts of these countries. [sentence as published]

This faction strongly desires continuation of enmities with the Islamic Republic of Iran. But if this view is correct concerning recent events it shows lack of concentration of power in Riyadh, which is a big weakness for any system.

In reality lack of existence of concentration of power in Riyadh has seriously disappointed all those who in Tehran want improvement of relationships with Saudi Arabia.

TEHRAN TIMES on Need for OPEC Unity

NC0410083089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have decided to extend their current meeting in Geneva in order to discuss the latest proposal by Iran to increase the output level of the cartel. Marketing committee of OPEC was supposed to meet on Monday evening, but decided to postpone the meeting to a later date following on the new proposal by Iran.

The meeting in Geneva was supposed to be by the members of the OPEC pricing committee that was formed following the 8th conference of OPEC in November, but the other members decided to join the conference. Members of the pricing committee are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria and Venezuela. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new quotas, revamping the organization and setting future strategy.

OPEC decided to set the total output level at 18.5m bpd [barrels per day] in 1988 and later during the 88th meeting increased this to 19m bpd and decided to keep the output level at this amount till the end of the current year. Now there is a proposal to increase the output level to 21m bpd and the proposal is being supported by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq. Iran, in its latest proposal, has offered another alternative, namely to increase the output of the cartel by 1m bpd. Iran has also proposed to keep the shares of three countries, Iran, Iraq and Saudi

Arabia, at their current levels, 14.27, 14.27 percent and 25.45 percent respectively but to reduce the shares of five countries, Algeria, Venezuela, Indonesia, Libya and Nigeria.

Reviewing the history of OPEC one notices very clearly that reaching an agreement, especially a unanimous one, has been always subject to the political atmosphere of the meetings. When countries, particularly those with the highest shares, are at agreement prices have seen an upward trend. On the other hand, when the cartel reflected political strains and differences prices fell subsequently. Politically two of the strongest countries of the organization, Iran and Saudi Arabia, are at odds and the relationship between the two countries are at their lowest level. Nonetheless, to save the organization and boost oil prices it is necessary to leave the political differences well alone and concentrate on economic issues only.

Iran has made the latest proposal in order to rescue the meeting from deadlock which it is facing and probably will get the support of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in this. At this time the other members must try their best to bring the points of view of the two major sides (Iran and Saudi Arabia) closer to each other in the hope of reaching a compromise. This goal will not be achieved, however, until the shadow of political differences darkening the meeting lifts and moves away.

Chief of Inspection Organization Interviewed

LD2909134689 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 89 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq Damad, the head of the National Control and Inspection Organization]

[Text] A case involving the embezzlement of several hundred million dollars in the purchase of medicines has become active following objections raised by the National Control and Inspection Organization and with the approval of the Majlis.

The head of this organization, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq Damad, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent. He commented on the case and announced the new programs of his organization which will provide general security and the firm handling of those who break the law.

He talked about the reasons why final investigations on large and important cases were abandoned. He said: Unfortunately, in the past there was abuse of relationships and poor coordination between judicial and executive organizations; this caused some of the large files to become bogged down in the final stages of decisionmaking. This resulted in the criminals being able to escape justice. There was a file dealing with the abuse of several hundred million dollars put aside for purchasing medicines. Experts from the Majlis health committee and experts at the Ministry of Justice declared that a clear case of embezzlement was involved. Yet, this file suffered the same fate. It is expected that now as a result of protests from our organization, action on the case will start again.

We hope that with the guidance of the leader and the firm leadership of the president and the judiciary, contacts and connections will be replaced with principles, because this issue has caused people to lose faith in Islamic justice, and this is something we are trying to avoid.

The head of the Inspection Organization then talked about those organizations in the country that have the most irregularities and have caused dissatisfaction among people. He added: These include various sections within municipalities, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the office for the registration of documents and property, and government and non-government distribution centers. Compared with other departments, these organizations are involved in more irregularities and wrongdoing,s and their actions have caused more dissatisfaction among people.

He added: During the course of one investigation, our organization discoverd a group at the office of documents and property registration in Khuzestan Province. This group cooperated with some employees at the registration office, the legal office at the Ministry of Agriculture, and some judicial officials, and forged ownership papers for some 700 hectares of land belonging to the government in Khuzestan. Some of them are now wanted and on the run.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq Damad spoke about the abuse of funds in some offices and said: Some financial abuses that take place in offices are small, but it is these cases which cause the most dissatisfaction among people. We try not to spend our time on these cases, but spend our energy going after the big cases involving large sums. Because the organization's reports are confidential in nature, they are not talked about in the mass media, but these same reports are investigated and they have so far caused several officials to be dismissed and others are being hunted down.

The head of the Inspection Organization said that providing overall security in the society is the prime objective of his organization. On the subject of finding basic ways to combat financial and clerical corruption in government offices he said: I think financial corruption should be dealt with at the roots. The way to deal with clerical and financial corruption in the lower levels of the civil service is to find ways to solve the problem of inflation and high prices and to eliminate red tape.

He talked about some of the big cases of fraud in government and security offices and said: With the awareness of some officials, a large group was discovered; they were involved in financial fraud which had spread to other offices. Their file is being pursued by the appropriate authorities. We shall disclose more about the actions of this group at a later date.

Mohaqqeq Damad added that from now on members of his organization will be stationed at all government offices including airports, the passport office, municipalities, the Department of Motor Vehicles and so forth to keep a close watch on their work. This week he said 20 delegations from the organization have been sent to government hospitals across the country to investigate the situation in those centers and to report any wrongdoing to their headquarters.

He commented on the actions of some security forces in illegally arresting people without warrants during nighttime hours. He said this was one of the cases of wrongdoing in some security quarters and added: Such actions cause the breakdown of general security in the society. They are quite against the law and they will be dealt with severely.

At the end of the interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohaqqeq Damad asked the Iranian people to report financial abuses in offices, either in person or by telephone to the Inspection Organization.

TEHRAN TIMES on Reconstruction Program

NC2909135589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Majlis Focus on Economic Rejuvenation"]

[Text] Economic rejuvenation of the country is the subject that has figured prominently in the special Majlis sessions to discuss and debate a new five-year economic, social and cultural plan. As far as we know the main aims of the plan are to contain and control soaring inflation and pay attention to revamping and generating momentum in this industrial and agricultural sectors in the country. All going well, if the plans are put through they should prove beneficial to the people as a whole.

One thing, however, the Majlis and the executives of the plan should take note of, is the need for efficient management in both these sectors of the economy. For nothing will come of the best laid plans if management goes awry and does not know how to move the plans forward. For now, there are many shortcomings at this level and this no doubt has been due to the war during which the emphasis could not be properly placed on thorough management efficiencies.

Another observation that has to be made in this connection is that private sector management has by all accounts proved to be more equal to the task of efficient management methods and this sector should therefore be encouraged to take part as fully as possible in this effort. It is believed that the government is now moving in the direction of assuming a coordinating and supervisory role and will cease by stages to engage directly in the running of industries throughout the country, which can better be handled by the private sector. A consequence of this approach will naturally be the generation of greater employment prospects for people in the nation and a quickening of economic growth.

Most recent statistics reveal that a majority of the present Iranian population consists of those under the age of 20. With efficient management and a quickening of economic expansion the human resources of this young and energetic sector can be tapped to good use to bring the nation to self-sufficiency. And to make efficient use of this and all such other resources should be the practical and chosen way of our planners.

A significant practical suggestion that we can make and one that will possibly be considered by the Majlis men now debating the five-year plan will be to sell off the capital and stocks of the various government-run factories and industries to the private sector with certain conditions.

Still another suggestion, we think to be practical, is to initiate a system of economic cals with foreign countries linked to our export and import trade with countries abroad. Allied to barter deals for oil, we could with advantage enter into buyback deals with countries which will take in goods exported from Iran and make returns of a like nature in terms of exchange, a variation from the more usual barter deals which countries contract with each other. Technology transfers can usefully come into this form of trade exchange and this again can have immense long-term benefits for the economy of the nation.

Editorial on Stabilization of Islamic System

NC2909143489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Move Towards Stabilization of Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Text] Four months after the election of the new leader of the Islamic Republic we are witnessing positive and serious developments towards stabilization of our Islamic system. Changes in administration, the judiciary and the executive branches were the parts of the reforms in the political, judicial and executive systems of the country. We can decisively say that considering the entirely new conditions these reforms have been totally positive and good.

Two points that should be analyzed here are first the speedy changes in the executive and judiciary systems of the country, which are the two pillars of the entire system. Secondly good choice of administrators of these two branches is itself an important topic of discussion.

Thus with the new changes the grounds for eliminating the special weak points that plagued the administration of the judiciary and certain executive policies, has been paved.

We remember well that the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic in clarification of his stances both orally and in writing repeatedly called for implementation of Divine commandments without delay in the judicial system of the

country. Therefore, serious changes with the aim of explicit and unquestioned execution of religious laws were something inevitable. Nomination of Ayatollah Yazdi as the head of the judiciary showed that the wishes of the leader of the revolution Imam Khomeyni have been realized. The predictable election of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the head of the executive branch with the aim of eliminating redundant institutions and bringing about positive changes in the decade of reconstruction was a serious factor in the direction of stabilization of the system. The very close connexion of the leadership with Ayatollah Yazdi and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is an indication of coordination and unity among the leading institutions of the country.

On the basis of reasoning of Islamic jurisprudents and the Constitution, the leader of the Islamic system, or in other words Vali-e Faqih, is the highest and most superior authority for making decisions and his commands are binding on all. The legislative branch is duty bound to supervise and control the executive branch. Hence there can be no possibility of irreconcilable conflicts within the system of government as it operates today.

*** Commentary Responds to Sirjani Article**

46400106 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial by Mehdi Haqverdi]

[Text] Let us take a good look at the realities.

Let us, with an eye for detail, review some of the evidence so that it may be justified, having to come to terms with the imposers of bitter realities.

Let us show the evidence and see the redness of the faces of the oppressed from the slap of world-mongers and excess-seekers and shout out the need to review [the method of our] struggle against enemies.

And, at last, let us harmoniously pound on the issues so that no one can think that it is the analysis and the conclusion that enemies have wanted us to conclude, and instead belligerently be the pretender and announcer of new ways in the struggle against colonialism.

It is a fact that America has confiscated millions of dollars of the Islamic Republic of Iran's wealth.

It is a fact that America, this pomp-worshipping giant, from the fruits of abundant blessings of natural resources and countless foreign exchange income (not [only] the ever-increasing exploitation of nations) has employed the best minds and the most clever planners in the world of diplomacy against her enemies.

It is a fact that the Iranian people have been introduced to washing machines, vacuum cleaners, air travel and the comforts of the amazing inventions of the 20th century.

It is a fact that if it were not for the war we would have spent much of our abundant resources and capabilities on the creation of industries and the employment of our dedicated and knowledgeable workforce in farms and factories to produce and invent, instead of spending them on second- and third-hand war supplies.

It is a fact that in the past few years certain people, under many guises, received tens of Peykan cars, television sets, refrigerators and freezers, and sold them for several times higher.

It is a fact that 3 months ago, a gang, wishing to destroy the country, pushed up the price of the dollar overnight from 80 tomans to 140 tomans.

It is in view of these bitter realities that one can warn and conclude that we should not have faced such realities. How? With a realistic approach and far-sightedness.

We should have been, or become, familiar with the bitter realities. We should not have, as a result of the CIA's conspiracies, reached the conclusion of the need to fight and confront America, which resulted in the freezing of billions of dollars of our country's assets in Western banks.

In view of America's immense economic power, we should not have raised any opposition and denied expansionism and dominance which resulted flashing a green light in the path of Saddam's war machine.

We should not have stuck our tongues out at the economic sanctions, in view of the nation's familiarity—and the friendship of a group of the privileged—with the advantages of washing machines, vacuum cleaners and air travel.

We should not have spent our abundant resources and God-given capabilities on this house-burning war. Indeed, a little humility before Saddam's excess-seeking could have prevented the opening of this dangerous path—as Jordan, from the beginning, adopted this method in dealing with [Israel] and Egypt and others finally came to their senses and joined in.

And, at last, all those who traded these "Don'ts" with "Dos" are the ones who in the past few years received tens of Peykan cars, television sets, refrigerators, and freezers, and sold them for several times higher.

In return, advocates of these "Don'ts" pulled themselves out of this whirlpool of corruption, and sought exile from their homeland, fearing a lack of security, and remained hopeful for a little breeze of freedom.

Of course, it is too late today, but still, the solution lies in returning from the difficult and dangerous path on which we have stepped.

We must believe that America is mighty and powerful enough to use extortion wherever, whenever, and under whatever pretext it wants. This extortion demand and the compliance with it is a part of the reality which today's world faces. If we do not accept this, once again under different circumstances, we will have to pay our

everlasting debt to the warmongers, and then some. Therefore, it is best that we put aside America's share as long as we still feel and have the freedom of gentlemanly choice.

We must understand the realities and react promptly, even if our place is to be usurped. At least, we will remain and it is best to be the live hero.

In the shadow of such wisdom and realistic views, the most effective methods may be employed against America. By spending our resources and employing our capabilities to set up industries and to create jobs in factories and farms, and by utilizing our God-given blessings we can become self-sufficient in lieu of using a few American-made goods. This is the meaning of a practical and scientific struggle against an enemy from whom, nevertheless, we have neither the ability to rid ourselves nor other oppressed people of the world.

Before the realities surround us, we must master the realities.

America is the prevailing power in the world, and this absolute fact must be witnessed clearly. Even if we do not like it nor want it, we should not reveal [our intentions]. One must always be patient in order that a suitable time for struggle emerges.

This is the advice of the wise and the realist for all times.

The most practical way of struggle against bitter realities is none other than patiently enduring the pain. Always let others prepare the grounds for eradication of this ugliness and bitterness and we, until the emergence of such an opportunity, will wait and call on you to do so as well.

[Signed] Mehdi Haqverdi

Pakistan

Agreement on Afghanistan Reached With USSR

BK0410051689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 4 Oct 89

[Text] New York, United Nations, Oct 4 (AFP)—Pakistan and the Soviet Union are to present Wednesday a draft agreement for a political settlement in Afghanistan to a meeting here of foreign ministers of the Islamic conference, Pakistani sources said.

The draft resolution was drawn up in a meeting Sunday between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Both men were in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

In an interview with Pakistani reporters, Mr. Yaqub Khan said the draft proposal outlined possible actions to be taken by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to help achieve a political settlement in the war between the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul and the Muslim resistance backed notably by Pakistan and the United States.

"We both understand the importance of working for a comprehensive peaceful settlement and that such a settlement is the right path to take rather than resort to a military solution which we do not think is likely to produce the desired results," he was quoted as saying.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called in the past for a non-military solution to the Afghan conflict, but has ruled out any role for Soviet-backed Afghan leader Najibullah or his immediate entourage.

Mr. Yaqub Khan declined to give details of the Pakistani-Soviet draft resolution, saying it was a primarily a general declaration putting forward both sides' desire for a peaceful solution to the 11-year-old conflict.

"I can safely say that we have been able to coordinate our positions on a number of issues which is a good augur for the future," he told the reporters.

"Obviously there are differences of approach between us and the Soviet Union on the Afghanistan question. These were frankly aired and we agreed to continue our dialogue with a view to arriving at a settlement that is satisfactory to the overwhelming majority of the Afghan people," he said.

Ms. Bhutto's mother, Nusrat Bhutto, is due to address the General Assembly Wednesday as head of Pakistan's delegation. A team representing the Afghan mujahidin interim government is also expected here this week led by its interior minister, Hezb-e Eslami faction chief Yunis Khalis.

The General Assembly is due to hold its annual debate on the Afghan situation late this month or in early November.

Bhutto Reiterates Policy

BK0310160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Addressing a crowded news conference on her return to Islamabad from Dhaka this afternoon, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto described her visit to Bangladesh as very successful and expressed confidence that her visit will usher in a new era of closer cooperation between the two countries. She enumerated a number of concrete steps [to enhance the relationship between the two countries], including the agreements signed during her visit. [passage omitted]

About Afghanistan, the prime minister reiterated that Pakistan is following a clear, consistent policy that is aimed at helping to establish a broad-based, independent, and representative government in Afghanistan. There is no possibility of any change in this policy. She added that her government considers the Afghan Interim

Government to be the best possible framework for a political solution of this problem.

Answering a question about corruption in the country, the prime minister said corruption has decreased to a considerable extent thanks to concrete steps taken by her government. She expressed the confidence that the country's economy will become strong in a couple of years. She said that had the present democratic government not taken necessary steps, there would have been a two-fold increase in the rate of inflation and present prices. She made the reminder that the government has taken these measures despite the negative politics of certain circles, which have tried in every possible way to keep the federal government involved in unnecessary problems and have been spreading all kinds of baseless rumors.

The prime minister expressed regret over the alleged incidents in which disrespect was shown to the national flag at Sukkur Airport and warned that no one will be allowed to work against national unity and integrity. She made it clear that no one will be allowed to take undue advantage of freedom and democracy. The prime minister said the persons responsible for this incident were working for vested interests and had supported dictatorship in the past. They are not happy at the restoration of the constitutional and democratic government and fundamental rights.

Earlier, talking to reporters in Dhaka before her departure, the prime minister stressed the need for ending the arms race in South Asia to make it a tension-free zone.

About Pakistan-India relations, Benazir Bhutto said: We have made important, although inadequate, progress toward easing tension.

Denies Policy Change

BK0310130489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 3 (AFP)—Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vehemently denied any change in her policy on Afghanistan Tuesday [3 October], saying her government continues to back the rebel mujahidin's Afghan Interim Government (AIG).

"Our policy on supporting AIG is clear, consistent and forthright," she told a news conference on her return from Dhaka after a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Ms. Bhutto strongly denied that she had recommended that the mujahidin rebels talk to the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah.

"It is distressing to see that repeated attempts are being made to create confusion," she said, referring to the report arising from an interview she gave the BBC.

"We continue to believe that it is through the AIG that a best possible solution can be found."

"The AIG framework is flexible and has the capacity to absorb the Iran-based resistance, prominent exiles, good Moslems in Afghanistan and the mujahidin commanders inside" the country, she added.

"We have supported its formation and we believe they need our backing when they are struggling" for the establishment of a representative government in Kabul, she said.

Quashing rumours of a change in her policy she lashed out at her opponents for creating confusion by "playing a theme that the new government in Pakistan is about to change its policy on Afghanistan and that it would abandon the mujahidin."

"It is absolutely wrong," she said, and advised "all the well wishers and friends of the mujahidin to support them without creating unnecessary complications" in their work.

Earlier in Dhaka Ms. Bhutto said it was unfortunate that no Afghan rebel group favours the Kabul government, as an aide revealed that Islamabad and Moscow were close to agreement on a proposed solution to the Afghan conflict.

Ms. Bhutto told reporters before leaving Bangladesh, "We consider setting up of a broad-based representative government by the people of Afghanistan as the only solution to the problem." But she said that "unfortunately" none of the Afghan opposition, including former king Zahir Shah, is "in favour of the regime" in Kabul. Continued conflict in Afghanistan "is not in the interests" of Pakistan, Afghanistan or the Soviet Union, she said.

Her advisor on foreign affairs and national security, Iqbal Akhund, said that Pakistani and Soviet officials meeting at the United Nations in New York were close to agreement on a draft resolution outlining a political solution to the Afghan problem.

"We are discussing the text of a consensus resolution. I think we are on the path of reaching an agreement. It is now basically a question of language acceptable to all concerned members," he said.

(In Kabul, government spokesman Muhammad Nabi Amani Tuesday said the Najibullah regime was ready to negotiate with "all sides in the conflict", including the former king, but added, "it is up to the Afghan people who rules the country".

(He was reacting to a call by United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Claiborne Pell for the ex-monarch to return from exile in Italy.

(Mr. Amani urged Washington to bring pressure on Pakistan to end its aid to the guerrillas, and in a reference to Ms. Bhutto's reported comments he said they must "be reflected in her actions".)

Bhutto Returns From 'Very Successful' Dhaka Trip

BK0310113289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has expressed the confidence that her visit to Bangladesh will usher in a new era of closer collaboration and enhanced cooperation between the two countries. She was addressing a crowded news conference at Islamabad Airport this afternoon on return from her 3-day official visit to Bangladesh. She said unprecedented welcome and hospitality accorded to her and members of her entourage was truly heart-warming and reflects amity and friendship which exist between the two countries. She believed it was also a measure of appreciation that people of Bangladesh have for the democratically-elected Government of Pakistan.

Earlier, addressing a news conference in Dhaka, the prime minister described her visit to Bangladesh as very successful and said the two countries are set on a path of enhanced cooperation. She said discussions between the two sides during the visit have showed that Pakistan-Bangladesh relations are based on a sound foundation. Ms Benazir Bhutto said she had fruitful talks with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, covering bilateral matters and regional and international issues.

Referring to trade relations between the two countries, she said Pakistan has provided a soft loan of about 45 million dollars to Bangladesh for buying two containers [ships] from Pakistan. Pakistan will import jute and jute goods, tea, and leather goods from Bangladesh and export rice and cotton to Bangladesh.

Comments on Issues Discussed

BK0310134989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has expressed the confidence that her visit to Bangladesh will usher in a new era of closer collaboration between the two countries. Addressing a crowded news conference at Islamabad airport on her return from Bangladesh this afternoon, she enumerated a number of concrete steps to enhance relationship between the two countries, including the agreements signed during her visit.

The prime minister said President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has accepted her invitation to pay a return visit to Pakistan and hoped it would take place in the near future.

Replying to a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said both Pakistan and Bangladesh are of the view that efforts should be made to keep SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] intact and running as it is a useful forum. She, however, pointed out that the member-countries also have their bilateral relations which sometimes complicate the matter.

About the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting which is now proposed to be held in Islamabad in the beginning of the next month, she said the meeting was proposed by Sri Lanka at an informal meeting with SAARC foreign ministers in Belgrade last month. If Sri Lanka now has some difficulties, they should propose a new date.

Regarding Bangladesh's share in its assets and liabilities of undivided Pakistan, the prime minister said both sides desire its settlement, but it is a complicated issue. The prime minister said the two sides also agreed to find a solution to the problem of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh and decided to have contacts at officials' level.

Bhutto Greets PRC on Founding Anniversary

BK0110034589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] On the founding day of the People's Republic of China today, the president and prime minister have congratulated the Chinese leadership and said that China is a source of valuable support to the people of Pakistan in their endeavors for welfare and security of the country. They added that Pakistan-China friendship serves the vital interests of the two countries and the cause of peace in the region.

In his message to PRC President Mr Yang Shangkun, Ishaq Khan said China has made impressive gains in the past 4 decades, which are viewed in the world with high respect. The president of Pakistan also lauded China's support for just causes in Third World countries and its constructive role in world peace and progress.

In her message to Chinese Prime Minister Mr Li Peng, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan and China have deep interests in each other's welfare and security. We have always stood by each other in even the most difficult circumstances. Our traditional friendship is a model for the region; it serves the vital interests of our two countries and contributes to peace and stability in the region. She expressed her firm conviction that the bilateral ties of the two countries which span many spheres will be further strengthened in years to come because they are mutually beneficial.

President Attends PRC Ambassador's Reception

BK0210031489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed optimism that the political situation in the country will improve and the country will progress on its normal path for the sake of the progress and prosperity of the people. He was talking informally to reporters at a reception hosted by the Chinese ambassador and Madam Tian Ding in Islamabad last night.

The president said the country's situation is not as bad as it seems from the reports appearing in the press. Journalists should help improve the situation.

Answering a question about present political conflict, the president said he thinks there is no cause for any alarm, and if there is any such conflict, the press should work toward putting an end to it. The president asked the people to remain fully hopeful and confident about the future of the nation. There is no cause for any pessimism, he added.

Senate Chairman Returns From PRC Visit

BK0310042589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] China has renewed its pledge to stand by Pakistan in all eventualities in safeguarding its national sovereignty. This was stated by the speaker of the National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, while talking to newsmen in Islamabad last evening on his return after leading a Pakistani parliamentary delegation to China. He said during his visit he met the senior Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping; the Chinese president; the prime minister; the general secretary of the Communist Party; and the chairman of National People's Congress, who reiterated their pledge to support Pakistan. They also hoped that relations between the two countries would gain further strength with the passage of time.

It was decided for the first time that exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries should take place periodically and parliamentary friendship groups be formed. Malik Mairaj Khalid said the delegation participated in the 40th independence day celebrations of the People's Republic of China. He said it was natural for Pakistan to express its solidarity with the Chinese people on this occasion, particularly when rumors about China are being spread in other countries.

Romanian President's Special Envoy Meets Bhutto

BK3009155589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The special envoy of the Romanian president, Mr (Constantine), and his delegation members called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today and brought her a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu. During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest. They also exchanged views on the regional situation, especially on the recent events in Afghanistan. The prime minister thanked him for the message of goodwill from the Romanian president and reiterated Pakistan's desire to expand cooperation with Romania in economic, scientific, and technical fields.

Envoy Meets With Khan

BK0110161489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] A special emissary of the Romanian president called on the president [Ghulam Ishaq Khan] today and exchanged views with him on bilateral relations and the regional situation, including Afghanistan. The special emissary has renewed his invitation to the president to visit Romania.

Iranian Command Group Visits Corps Headquarters

BK3009132989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The 106-member team of the Iranian Command and Staff College called on the corps commander, Lieutenant General Alam Jan Masud, in Lahore today. They were briefed on the functioning of the (?foundation). Later, the team left for Iran. The team (?which met) officers of the Pakistan Naval Staff College along with naval officers from some friendly countries visited the corps headquarters in Lahore.

Ministry Spokesman on Adviser's Kabul Visit

BK3009154889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has clarified the report published in a section of the press that Miss Alia Imam, the cultural affairs adviser of Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto, has gone to Kabul on a friendly visit at the invitation of the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Society of Afghanistan. The spokesman said that Miss Alia Imam does not hold any official position in the senior minister's office, and her visit to Afghanistan is entirely of a personal nature, adding that she was not permitted by the senior minister to undertake the visit.

Kashmir Chief Urges UN To Act on Killings

BK3009153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, the prime minister of Azad [Pakistan-held] Jammu and Kashmir, has condemned the indiscriminate firing by police in occupied Kashmir, in which five persons were killed. In a cable, he urged UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to stop the killing of Muslims in occupied Kashmir.

Bhutto Moves To Avoid No-Confidence Motion

BK0310153789 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Sep 89 pp 1, 6

[By Tariq Butt]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Sept. 24—Efforts for and against a reported no-confidence move to be sponsored by the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) against the Prime Minister are gaining momentum, as the time passes by.

On Saturday [23 September] Premier Benazir Bhutto had a series of meetings with MNAs [Members of National Assembly] belonging to different districts of Punjab at her office. Yesterday, she met a group of members from Sind.

The official word was that the meetings are meant to "familiarise herself with the problems of different areas."

Her arch political force, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif again dashed to Islamabad on Saturday for "consultations" with COP leaders about the no-trust motion. He is expected to again visit the Federal Capital during the current week.

The Prime Minister had a luncheon-meeting with MNAs of Multan, Khanewal, Vehari and Sheikhupura. The Federal Ministers who come from these districts were also present.

In another development, she presided over a meeting of the MNAs, MPAs [Members of Provincial Assembly] and main PPP office-bearers of Faisalabad Division.

Sources say the elected representatives expressed their confidence in her and said they would foil any attempt to vote her out in the National Assembly.

The Prime Minister will continue holding such meetings in the next few days. She started these after speculations that the COP was to table the no-trust motion during the current week.

PPP sources expect that she will also have a session with MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] MNAs, who are indicating signs of heightening dissatisfaction with the ruling party. Virtually, they had a showdown with their coalition partner in the National Assembly today over the reported migration of non-Sindis from the interior of Sind.

A participant told "THE MUSLIM" that the Prime Minister was confident that the COP would not table the motion, because they knew that it would be defeated.

Sources say the Prime Minister urged the MNAs to maintain unity in their ranks.

They say the PPP leaders are "paying a close vigil" on any MNA, who they suspect may "slip away."

Meanwhile, when the Punjab Chief Minister dashed to the Capital Saturday he met Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mohammad Khan Junejo, Ghulam Haider Wyne and other COP leaders to "review" preparations for the no-confidence motion.

The elected representatives briefed the Prime Minister in detail about the difficulties being faced by the people of their regions to which she responded with the reiteration that the Government would spare no effort and employ every available penny to solve the problems being faced by the masses within the shortest possible time. She asked the members of the National Assembly to remain in close contact with the people of their regions and prepare plans and draw up suggestions to improve the living conditions of the poorer sections. Such schemes, she said, would receive priority in implementation. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Joint Ventures, Trade With USSR Discussed

BK0210153389 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union today identified several projects for joint venture participation and also agreed to further promote bilateral trade between the two countries. This decision followed discussions between a Soviet delegation led by the acting Soviet commercial counselor (Vladimir Ushinov) and the minister of trade and shipping, A.R. Mansoor, in Colombo this morning.

One of the major projects identified was the operation of a ship repairing unit for the Soviet vessels in Sri Lanka. An agreement in this regard will be signed shortly. Initially, the Soviet Union will [words indistinct] to the Colombo dockyard repair.

The Soviet delegation also agreed to launch joint venture project for the manufacture of containers in Sri Lanka. The other items identified were: the export of Sri Lankan garments to the Soviet Union and a project for diamond cutting.

Minister Mansoor said that an exhibition of Sri Lankan garments in the Soviet Union will create a good opportunity to promote sales there. The proposals of the minister were well received by the Soviet delegation.

Indian Army Training Tamil Youth Volunteers

BK0210030089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0233 GMT 2 Oct 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, Oct 2 (AFP)—The Indian Army is giving military training to hundreds of Tamil youths to set up a provincial police force in Sri Lanka, but has denied charges that recruits were forcibly conscripted.

About 2,500 Tamils have been trained across the island's Tamil-majority northeast for the Civilian Volunteer Force (CVF), which will maintain law and order in the region when the Indian troops return home, a brigadier said. More than 7,000 would be trained in the coming months, Tamil sources added.

But the grand programme, which began earlier this year, has drawn flak on grounds that pro-India Tamil groups which administer the Northeastern Province were forcing youths to join the CVF. An Indian Army officer in this eastern city denied the charge.

"We have done exactly the opposite," Major General Ashok Kumar Mehta said, when asked to comment about the conscription, which sent hundreds of Tamil boys fleeing into Colombo around July to avoid recruitment. The major, who was speaking to reporters from

New Delhi, said the Army took care to ensure that no one enlisted in the CVF unwillingly.

Another Army officer, Brigadier N.K. Kapur, said about 2,500 youths had already been trained and added that the Sri Lankan Government had consented to have 12,000 trained for the CVF initially. He said recruitment for the CVF was done by the inspector general of Sri Lankan police.

"Subsequently they (recruits) come to us. The IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) trains them. It is a legitimate force," he said. The mass training has rekindled memories of the 1983-84 period, when the Indian Government, despite denials, taught military warfare on the Indian soil to hundreds of Sri Lankan Tamils campaigning for an independent homeland.

On Thursday, some 50 journalists from New Delhi were taken to a sprawling ground here where they saw Indian soldiers teaching some 100 boys in khaki the use of automatic weapons and target practise. The boys, most of whom seemed to be in their teens, were divided into 10 batches. They followed the Tamil-speaking soldiers' instructions silently and exhibited their knowledge of dismantling and assembling weapons.

The journalists also saw several boys lining up for recruitment, but could not speak to them.

Colonel A.K. Nagpal, chief instructor at the training centre, said each training course lasted 13 weeks and included physical drills, first aid, law and order duties, intelligence gathering and anti-terrorist operations.

"The response to the recruitment is immensely good," he said, adding, "we are unable to take all those who come."

But Indian Army officials admitted privately that attendance in schools across the northeast had dropped steeply in recent months due to reports that students were being taken away to join the CVF.

"Of course, forcible conscription is going on," said A. Murlidaran, secretary of the Jaffna University Students Union. "It is done by the EPRLF and ENDLF. The IPKF is not doing it." The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) control the administration in the Northeast, where some 41,000 troops of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) are deployed under a 1987 pact. Similar allegations have been made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant Tamil militant group, which has been waging a guerrilla war against the Indian Army since October 1987.

The LTTE, which bitterly opposes the EPRLF and ENDLF, on Sunday accused the two groups of forcibly recruiting "an army of school children to protect it (the Northeastern government) from virtual collapse."

Tamil sources here said various Tamil groups were also separately forcing young boys to join their "armies," which observers say would certainly fight it out for supremacy when Indian troops leave Sri Lanka. The sources said many of those taken in for training had their eyebrows shaved off for identification in case they escaped and returned to their homes.

The journalists saw CVF personnel armed with rifles guarding buildings and street junctions at many places in the districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Jaffna. Many patrolled streets with Indian soldiers.

One of them, who gave his name as Ashok, said he had joined the CVF voluntarily, had been trained by the Indian Army and was happy with his monthly salary of 2,400 rupees (about 70 U.S. dollars).

Varadaraja Perumal, chief minister of the Northeastern Province, said he had asked President Ranasinghe Premadasa to let the regional government control the CVF, which he hoped would one day be 10,000 strong. The CVF is presently controlled by Colombo, which has said that it had taken up with the IPKF complaints about forced enlistment into the CVF.

But Mr Perumal virtually admitted to forced conscription when he told reporters at Trincomalee town: "I was given the assignment to maintain law and order (in the region). I have the freedom of recruitment."

LTTE Offered Negotiations, Fresh Elections

BK0310124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Oct 89

[Text] The chief minister of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka, Mr Varadraj Perumal, has said that he is prepared to negotiate with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to facilitate it to lay down arms and join the democratic process. He said this would lead to a congenial political atmosphere. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in Jaffna, Mr Perumal said an amicable relationship between all Tamil groups should be created so that fresh elections could be held after the provincial council is dissolved and a free and fair political atmosphere restored.

Editorial Hails Accord on Indian Troop Pullout

BK0110093289 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 20 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Agreement at Last"]

[Text] The Indo-Lanka agreement, signed in Colombo on 18 September, seems to mark the successful conclusion of a long series of negotiation: a long period of uncertainty and suspense.

The key points of the agreement provide for the suspension of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] offensive from Wednesday, that is today, and for a final pullout of the IPKF by December 31.

President Premadasa who, from the time of his election campaign pledged to clear our soil of foreign troops, has now been able to fix the Indian withdrawal to a specific time-schedule. True, the original accord made it clear that the Indian contingent was here only on the invitation of the Sri Lankan president. But events were to cloud the issue of their pull-out in needless mystique.

Whatever the reasons, it seemed that India was dragging her feet on the precise question of a total withdrawal of her men and material from Lanka. So much so, that the Indian authorities have been subjected to the strongest criticism by sections of the Indian opposition and a cross-section of the Indian Press. A final assessment of India's intervention, and the price paid for it both by India and Sri Lanka, is probably best left to a later date.

But India did make the mistake of giving the impression that she was ready to overstay her welcome. That insensitivity necessarily was a challenge to our own sovereignty. As a result, the Indian troops came to be called an occupying force, so much so, that even today there lingers in the highest circles some reservation as to its future role.

President Premadasa was keeping his fingers crossed until the final departure of the last of the Indian troops, well-informed sources have declared.

Under the terms of the agreement, during the three months ending December 31, there will be a phased transition of security control of the northern and eastern provinces from the IPKF to the Sri Lankan authorities. This would include the provincial police force, Colombo's Foreign Office said.

Sri Lanka is not unconscious of the reality that the Indian presence, at first, was of immense relief to the country, insofar as it permitted the government of the island to divert troops to the south where a second insurgency was gaining strength.

Without Indian assistance in 1987, the Sri Lankan defence lines might have been stretched too thin to be effective enough to prevent the threat of dismemberment in the north or anarchy in the south.

The country owes a debt of gratitude to our negotiators on various occasions led by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratne, the President's Advisor on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon, on the one hand; and to those on the Indian side led by Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka, for the final agreement now reached, on the other.

May its terms be so faithfully fulfilled as to revive the mutual trust and goodwill that once prevailed between this island and her great neighbour.

Above all, those still agitating for an Indian withdrawal must, now, adopt a more balanced and a calmer course. There is, now no need for war drums.

Ambassador to PRC Dies in Beijing 1 Oct

BK0110132289 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry in Colombo announced that the Sri Lankan ambassador to China, N. Perera, passed away this morning in Beijing. A spokesman of the ministry said that Mr Perera has passed away after a heart attack [words indistinct] in Beijing on 27 September. [passage omitted]